

HORSES IN THE WAR (Illustrated). By A. Sidney Galtrey.
THE FIRST PRINTED BOOK ON AGRICULTURE. By Dr. E. J. Russell.

COUNTRY LIFE

OFFICE:
20, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2.

VOL. XLIII. No. 1106.

Entered as Second-class Matter at the New York, N.Y. Post Office.

[REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O.
AS A NEWSPAPER, AND FOR
CANADIAN MAGAZINE POST.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 16th, 1918.

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COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. XLIII.—No. 1106.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16th, 1918

PRICE ONE SHILLING, POSTAGE EXTRA.
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* * We appeal to our readers to send their copies of recent issues of COUNTRY LIFE to the TROOPS AT THE FRONT. This can be done by simply handing them over the counter of any Post Office. No label, wrapper or address is needed and no postage need be paid.

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REVIVAL OF THE FLAX INDUSTRY

ONE of the latest developments of the Board of Agriculture is to set up a Flax Production Department by way of reviving and encouraging the flax industry in the British Isles. This is not, as we have heard it suggested, merely a new fad of the Board of Agriculture, but it is brought about in consequence of the large consumption of flax for aeroplane wings, and the almost certain failure of the supply of flax from Russia. Flax growing has become one of the urgent problems of the day, and it is being taken up by farmers on a very extensive scale in various parts of Ireland, also in Yorkshire, Somerset, Lincolnshire and Scotland. Great efforts are being made to get 10,000 acres of this crop sown during the coming spring. The scheme is of exceptional interest not only on account of its national importance, but also by reason of the special terms and bounties offered to farmers in order to secure the success of the undertaking. The Government propose to pay £8 10s. per ton for the total crop of seed and straw, and the seed for sowing will be supplied free. It is estimated that two to three tons per acre is a

fair average yield. The prospect of a paying crop is very encouraging. By way of inspiring confidence in those without experience in flax growing there is a guaranteed minimum payment of £14 per acre for all land suitably managed, irrespective of the return of flax. As a further inducement the Flax Production Department will, in case of labour trouble, weed and harvest the flax at a level cost to the grower of £4 5s. an acre.

A considerable number of Lincolnshire farmers, more especially in the Spalding district, have shown their approval of the revival of the flax industry, and have given an undertaking to grow the crop, many of them offering fifty acres and others a lesser area. Ulster farmers are likewise making an effort to increase the acreage under cultivation. At a recent meeting in Belfast attended by representatives of all the branches of the industry a resolution was adopted approving of a scheme to undertake the renting of land and the cultivation of flax over and above the expected increased acreage of farmers, and commending a proposal to raise the guaranteed fund of £500,000 by the trade, subject to obtaining the guarantee of the Government for £1,500,000. It was stated that guarantees amounting to £270,000 had been obtained from the trade. The effort of the Ulster farmers will be watched with interest.

The flax plant so much grown in Ireland is, botanically, *Linum usitatissimum*, that is, the common flax, a blue-flowered hardy annual. The same plant yields linseed, much used for poultices, but at the present time in greater demand for linseed meal, linseed oil and cake. The type best suited for fibre production is not the one best suited for seed. For the former purpose long, single stems are required, such as are produced from seed of Russian or Dutch origin. For seed purposes the shorter branching Plate variety is the most suitable. There is thus need for much care in the selection of the proper type of seed for sowing. Further details on this point can be obtained from the Director of Flax Production, 14, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

For the production of fibre a well drained, fairly heavy loam will give good results. The seed bed should be carefully prepared so as to ensure uniform germination and growth. The ground must be clean and worked into a good tilth. It would not be considered an ideal crop for a piece of waste land newly turned over, but it can be recommended as a good crop to follow oats, clover or long ley. As a crop to follow old grass it possesses this advantage over cereals, viz., it is practically immune from attacks by wireworm. Although the seed bed requires moderately deep cultivation, the soil ought not to be too loose, but it should be made compact by harrowing and rolling. Moreover, the soil ought not to be highly dressed with fresh stable manure, or growth is too luxuriant and the fibre is not of the best quality. Seed should be sown from the middle of April to the middle of May, and for fibre production it is usual to sow about two bushels to the acre. The crop may be harvested in August in time for a catch crop in suitable circumstances.

The war has brought home to us the possibilities of many hitherto neglected industries on the land. Among them might be mentioned the growing of haricot beans, peas for drying as winter food, and, on a smaller scale, the cultivation of sunflower seed. To these we now add the revival of the flax industry. Incidentally it may be mentioned that flax and sunflowers are two of the very few oil-producing annuals that may be grown with reasonable hope of success in this country. Meanwhile, the growing of sugar beet and tobacco, both of which occupied attention in pre-war days, have made little or no progress.

There is much to be said in favour of flax growing: the product is needed for purposes of munitions, more especially for the making of aeroplane wings; and it is safe to predict that flax fields will become a feature of the countryside in Ireland, Scotland, and in counties as far asunder as Yorkshire and Somerset.

Our Frontispiece

THIS week we print as our frontispiece a portrait of Lady Blanche Somerset, elder daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort. The engagement of Lady Blanche Somerset and the Earl of St. Germans has recently been announced.

* * It is particularly requested that no permissions to photograph houses, gardens or livestock on behalf of COUNTRY LIFE be granted except when direct application is made from the offices of the paper.

COUNTRY NOTES



BUSINESS Men's Week," which closed last Saturday, produced a striking response to Mr. Bonar Law's appeal for a spectacular effort in support of his policy of continuous borrowing. As we go to press the final figures are not public property, but it is known that during the week the country subscribed "at least £113,000,000." This total, which will doubtless be increased by returns from distant parts of the country, is already £13,000,000 in excess of the round figure aimed at by the organisers. The result is at once a triumph for imaginative organisation and a demonstration of national determination. London appears to have contributed some £75,000,000, of which over £55,000,000 were subscribed in the "City." In previous "Tank campaigns" London had not done so well as some of the northern towns, but those who criticised London's previous failure to subscribe as much per head as some provincial cities seem to have overlooked the fact that, generally speaking, the London worker has not shared to a great extent in "war prosperity." His earnings have risen, but most, at any rate, of the advance has been absorbed by the higher cost of living. London is not primarily a great manufacturing centre, and on the average the London worker certainly has not got as much surplus income to put into War Bonds as the average worker of the great northern towns and munition centres.

THE stirring speech in which M. Clemenceau vindicated to the Chamber of Deputies the policy which he has pursued hitherto and intends to follow will find an echo wherever the true inwardness of enemy morality and enemy ambition is apprehended. Amid all the welter of words of these last few months the French Premier's vigorous declaration comes as a tonic. "My motto," he said, "is the same everywhere. In domestic politics I wage war. In foreign policy I wage war. I am endeavouring to keep the confidence of the Allies. Russia has betrayed us, I continue to wage war. Unhappy Rumania is compelled to capitulate, I continue to wage war, and I shall continue to wage war until the last quarter of an hour." That is the only answer our enemies are likely to understand and respect; and if anything were needed to show them the solidarity of France, they have it in the manner in which M. Clemenceau carried the Extreme Left with him.

INCOME tax is always an unpleasant subject. In principle it seems the simplest of all taxes—in practice it is necessary to pile exception upon exception and proviso upon proviso in order to meet the contingencies and variations which are inseparable from human affairs. Our own Income Tax laws are about to be consolidated in an Act of prodigious length. The American Government have recently imposed a series of Income Taxes, which for comprehensiveness and complexity rival our achievements during the past hundred years. As America started untrammelled by tradition and the mass of legislative enactments, which have woven themselves into our national life, one would have thought that simpler methods would have prevailed.

THERE are no fewer than four separate taxes. (1) The nominal tax of 4 per cent., which affects all incomes of \$3,000 and over, in the case of single persons, and \$4,000 and upwards in the case of married couples, with an allowance of \$200 for each child under 18. Persons who are not American citizens, and who are not resident in America, are liable to pay 2 per cent. only on the income derived from their investments, but they are not entitled to the abatements. The nominal tax payable by companies is 6 per cent. instead of 4 per cent. (2) The Supertax, which commences with incomes of \$5,000, is based on a sliding scale, ranging from 1 per cent. to 63 per cent. For example: An income of \$100,000 (£20,000) is taxed at \$16,220 (£3,224). Rates on small incomes are considerably lower. An income of \$10,000 (£2,000) is taxed at \$215 (£43) only. (3) The Excess Profits tax on profits above 9 per cent. on capital employed. The first 15 per cent. of profits above the 9 per cent. datum line is charged with a tax of 20 per cent. The rate of the tax is gradually increased to 60 per cent. in the case of profits exceeding 33 per cent. (4) A Gross Profit Tax of 10 per cent. on the undistributed profits of companies, the object being to force the payment of dividends, which will then become liable for Supertax.

THE American method of assessment is more stringent than ours, inasmuch as profits on sales of land, houses, shares, chattels, etc., must be brought into account. In this country no tax is payable on profits derived from such transactions, unless they form part of the tax-payer's business—otherwise they are regarded as accretions of capital. Comparing the American scale with our own it will be found that in America incomes below \$300,000 (£60,000) pay less, although above that figure they pay more. A person with an income of \$500,000 (£100,000) pays 50 per cent as against our 42½ per cent., and the American with an income of \$3,000,000 (£600,000) pays as much as 63 per cent.

TO PROSERPINA.

Oh I have wondered oft how it befell
That Proserpina was constrained to dwell
With shades in hell—
In happy times it seemed so hard a thing
And fearful, that the Lady of the Spring,
Her flowers in her lap, should come to this
Pale and forlorn, to live the bride of Dis.
But now that green fields are ensanguined
And budding trees behold the newly dead,
And Youth is lost and joy is fled . . .
Cast up, oh Proserpina, on our land,
The early snowdrop, for I understand
Its bitter sweetness—coming from your hand.
And forge, oh Proserpina, forge your fill
Sharp swords of hyacinth and daffodil,
Although they stab my spirit so alert
The first primrose will be a thing to hurt—G. J.

FARMERS will welcome with something like enthusiasm the concordat between the Board of Agriculture and the Ministry of Food on the subject of using grain crops (other than wheat) for feeding cattle. They recognise that the shortage of oil cake must be borne as one of the inevitable consequences of reduced shipping; but there was something like bitterness when dairy farmers and stock owners were forbidden to "feed" even the dredge corn (oats and barley sown together) which they had grown for the purpose. But the Ministry of Food has been adamant in maintaining its Order; and rightly so, because the loaf must be secured to the consumer at all costs, and we can do better without fat meat than without bread. By a happy and ingenious compromise the farmer is now to be allowed to grow grain for his own beasts and on terms which will not decrease the supply available for the loaf.

FULL compliance with the Cultivation Orders served on him by his County Executive Committee is the fundamental condition of the concession. When he has done all he was bidden to do he may retain, for feeding, the crop of any additional permanent pasture that he may plough on satisfying the authorities that the grain came off this extra land, and provided that the Executive Committee has approved the new fields he proposes to break up. We are sure that the farmer will recognise that he is on his honour not to abuse this privilege, and that he will see to it that not a bushel of his normal crop goes to his cattle. No doubt the Ministry of Food will also be on the watch: their powers of punishment for an infraction of the Order are

considerable and will be exercised. Not the least satisfactory feature of the announcement is the proof it gives that the Food Production task set to the counties is well on the way to full accomplishment. Despite disappointments in the number of tractors available, the ploughing programme has gone splendidly in weather conditions that have been ideal. God has sped the plough in a season when the speeding has meant so much for national safety, and we doubt not that farmers who have finished their task will turn again to the plough with right good will. The Prime Minister's "hundred days" exhortation to all workers on the land fell on willing ears, and with continuing good weather we may be sure that the answer at harvest time will confound the pessimist.

BUT there must be no relaxation until the last seed that can be sown has been sown. The Prime Minister spoke as earnestly to every man, and every woman, too, with a garden or a ten-rod allotment as to the farmer with a thousand acres. Last year the croakers said that the potato growing campaign would bring a glut, and that England would be full of rotting tubers. They are answered to-day, when the potato has become a most valuable constituent of the loaf, and the new factories for the making of potato flour are beginning to achieve an appreciable output. It is everyone's duty to make a dozen potatoes grow where one grew before. Germany is feeding her army horses on potatoes for lack of other fodder, and her human population is eating many times the amount of potatoes per head that we consume. Few of us can grow grain, but everyone with a few rods of ground can produce potatoes, and the more widespread the crop the less strain there will be on our overburdened railways.

IRELAND had never truer son than John Redmond, and not Ireland only, but the whole Empire is the poorer by the loss of one whose nobility of character and generous ideals gave no place to the pettiness that so often engulfs the professional politician. The tributes paid to his memory by the speeches in the House of Commons and the remarkable demonstration at his funeral in Wexford stand as an index to the regard in which he was held by his friends and the respect which he compelled from his bitterest political opponents. His absence from the Convention is a serious blow, and though it is too early to note signs of its effect, it cannot but be felt that the hopes of a settlement in Ireland are seriously jeopardised by the death of the great Nationalist leader. Never has a settlement been more urgently needed than now, when America and England stand so closely joined in common purpose.

THOSE who knew Mr. John Redmond only in the hurly-burly of political strife missed acquaintance with the side of his character which to his intimate personal friends was most characteristic: that was, his almost passionate attachment to the simple life of a country gentleman. His happiest days were spent in his little country home in Wexford, where it was his delight to entertain one or two friends at a time in the simplest possible manner. No one was more at home with the rod, the gun and the hounds; both as a fisherman and as a shot Mr. Redmond was a very capable performer. He was also a good horseman and a great lover of dogs. Only those who knew him in these surroundings could appreciate how much he gave up in order to serve his country. Only a compelling sense of duty and a realisation of the important services that he could render to the Ireland that he loved could have induced him to exchange the quiet life of the country and his simple sporting interests for the toil and stress of politics. Often among the bitter struggles and disappointments which so frequently marked his thirty years' service at Westminster he must have been sorely tempted to regret the renunciation of his beloved country life.

THE Germans have a keen appreciation of the value of mineral deposits. They showed that in 1871 in the case of Lorraine; they are showing it now in relation to Spitzbergen. That Arctic archipelago in the Frozen North is about the last place which one expected to find mentioned in the economic treaty just concluded between the Germans and the Bolsheviks; but there it figures in a mysterious way which suggests that the two contracting parties agree to divide Spitzbergen between them. The answer, however, is that Spitzbergen does not now, and never did, belong to Russia. It is a "No Man's Land" which has never been permanently settled, and which was never crossed until

that adventurous Englishman, Sir Martin Conway, performed the feat in 1896, just three centuries after its discovery. Yet it was once formally proclaimed to belong to King James I by the adventurous sailors who went whaling in those waters, though the Danes also claimed it as forming part of Greenland. The interest of Spitzbergen to-day is a mineral interest. There are large coal deposits there and enormous deposits of iron ore, easily obtainable. British, Norwegian, American, German and Russian companies were working in Spitzbergen before the war; and, indeed, an International Conference on the subject, convened by the Norwegian Government was actually in progress at Christiania when hostilities broke out. The fact that the Germans have not forgotten Spitzbergen even in the midst of this life and death struggle indicates the importance they attach to these mineral fields. Forewarned is forearmed. The Power with the strongest navy will still have something to say as to the future control of Spitzbergen.

THE twelfth hour action of the German Government in releasing from gaol the two British air officers, Lieutenants Scholtz and Wookey, is a gratifying justification of the Government's firm handling of the question of reprisals. The offence which raised the fierce ire of the German Government was the dropping of leaflets over the German lines. That it should be visited with a sentence hitherto unheard of in Europe, namely, ten years' hard labour, is an illuminating index to enemy mentality. Nothing is apparently more disconcerting to the Prussian than to be bombarded with ideas. The whole question of reprisals is one bristling with difficulties, but this much is clear: that nothing is so likely to exact respect from our enemies as a firm adherence to whatever policy circumstances indicate as necessary or desirable. We in this country have been slow to learn the lesson of German psychology, but having learnt it, it remains only to press the advantage to its full extremity, both in the matter of defending our civilian population from air attack and in seeking to impress the German people by the only sort of argument they are likely to appreciate.

TO A. S.

Killed at Monte Santo, 1917.

He died as many others have,
And Death was merciful and swift,
Laying among the bravest brave
The boy who fell; as in a drift
Of golden leaves another falls,
When Autumn takes a glowing toll;
Borne on victorious bugle calls
Passed his rejoicing soul.

ETHEL HERBERT.

ONE way of alleviating the shortage of grain for poultry feeding is by growing giant sunflowers for seed. This was followed in Surrey last year with excellent results. The matter is of far-reaching importance in view of the repeated warnings that have been issued urging poultry keepers to cut down their stocks of poultry owing to the shortage of grain. Giant sunflowers are old inhabitants of cottage gardens and, as everyone knows, they are quite easily grown. They may, in fact, be grown practically anywhere and by anybody, whether in a flower border or on a spare piece of land, providing ordinary care is taken. There are many sunny corners now lying idle that might be made to yield a good return of sunflower seed. The seed is rich in oils, and its value as chicken food is unquestionable. To get the best results seed should be sown under glass without delay; but a good return of seed can be obtained by sowing in open quarters in April.

IN our gardening pages last week we pointed out one of the greatest difficulties with which the allotment worker is faced, namely, that of raising vegetables from seed. Fortunately for certain districts, this work is being carried out under glass in large gardens and nurseries; but those in districts which are not so favourably situated would do well to follow the admirable suggestion made by a correspondent describing a War Gardens League to supply members with strong young vegetable plants and also with reliable seeds. The suggestion is worthy of the widest possible publicity, for it is certain that every co-operative movement of this kind—so long as it is well conducted—must lead to a great saving in seed and expense to the workers, apart from being a great asset to the productivity of a rural neighbourhood.

HORSES IN THE WAR

BASE REMOUNT DEPOTS IN FRANCE

IF I say at the outset of this article that at the time of writing there are towards half a million horses and mules on active service with the British Forces in France, I may possibly excite the reader's doubt, which will be his polite expression of a distinctly more brusque feeling of incredulity. Yet he must banish his doubt, for the figure would be on or near the mark were a census of war horses and mules to be taken to-day. Not all of them have passed through the Remount Service. That Service primarily exists to horse newly created war units, to repair wastage in war, and to receive and issue to fighting units and the many and varied units on lines of communication those sick and worn animals, now re-tooled, that have passed through veterinary hospitals. Many of the vast total, which is creeping so near to the half-million, came out with the Forces—with artillery, light and heavy, cavalry, infantry, and all the various kinds of transport that follow in the wake of an army. So it happens that from the beginning of the war until the end of January, 1918, well over a quarter of a million horses and mules came to France from overseas as remounts. With very few exceptions, say, about 5,000 "waler" horses from Australia and a few mules landed direct from America, the whole of these remounts were received from the United Kingdom. I have shown in previous articles how most of these originally came from America and were made fit in the interval in the British depôts.

Omitting the small contingent from Australia, the whole of the remounts were landed at five base remount depôts situated at intervals along the north coast of France and within comparatively easy reach by train and road of our armies in the field. It follows, therefore, that it was part of the function of these base depôts to issue as directed those animals, as well as others that came to them again from veterinary hospitals and convalescent horse depôts, after having done work with the armies. Some of those "others" may have come from the front, *via* the hospitals, more than once, even twice or thrice. You will readily understand this when it is stated that up to the end of January last the issues to the front from the depôts were over half a million. Then in addition considerable numbers of horses and mules have been despatched to other theatres of war so that the total of animals that have passed out from base remount depôts from the beginning of the war to the end of January, 1918, is well over the half million. It is of those base depôts that I would like to write now, because, apart from their great importance, they obviously represent the starting-off point in the career of every gallant horse and worthy mule on active service.

A base remount depôt, which we will call "A," has, of course, easy access from the sea. From the spot where it is situated you look towards a historical city, through which a river famous in commerce, romance and tragedy, passes out on

its ever-widening passage to the sea. You contemplate that vista of ancient monuments mingling with the tall chimneys of modern industry, and your imagination flits centuries back to the distant ages when the Norsemen came, when English and French fought as fierce opponents, asking and giving no quarter, and when treachery, bloodshed, and swaying battles were part of the unhappy lives of each succeeding generation. Odd contrasts indeed! This depôt may be said to have had its origin half in York and half in Waterford, the divided forces becoming united at their first French base on August 19th, 1914. They were there only a fortnight, and then at a time when the Germans were seriously threatening the northern coast of France they were hurriedly shipped and put out to sea. For three days they were steaming for a destination unknown to the voyagers until they again landed in France. For three weeks afterwards they were strenuously engaged in supplying horses to the front, including most of the thousand brought from Waterford. Then there came the order to move. Another fortnight passed and eventually the depôt came to rest at the place it has ever since occupied. They were the first to settle in what was then a fine stretch of parkland on the edge of a forest. You can imagine that with the huge growth of the armies and their requirements little or nothing that is green is to be seen on the surface of that park to-day, for hospitals, stores, rest camps, and odds and ends of necessary military development abound and congest.

The depôt began, as all other remount depôts began—on nothing! All they possessed were the things that mattered, the horses. No neat and orderly lines of covered stables, no well made metalled roads, no well designed feeding and watering arrangements, and little or no comfort and convenience for man or beast existed as is the case to-day. Horses were picketed in lines on ropes. They had to stand on ground which rapidly became mud. They had to be taken a mile or more to water. All these alarming deficiencies and disadvantages only existed, however, to be gradually removed until, by strenuous labour and real devotion to the Cause, order was evolved out of chaos. To-day there are five squadrons, each capable in normal times of dealing with 500 animals. Often at times of pressure far more are dealt with, so that the strength in horses and mules averages 3,000. Thus, one squadron will deal only with heavy draught horses for siege artillery and that class of transport which must have heavy horses; another specialises in the light draught horse which horses the Field and Horse Artillery and all manner of horse transport. You scarcely need to be told, therefore, how this class of horse must preponderate. A third squadron is intended to handle those riding horses suitable for cavalry and yeomanry, and a fourth devotes each and every day's work to the charger.

Two-thirds of the animals come from those veterinary hospitals in the immediate neighbourhood, and, on an average, close on a hundred a day are received in this way. The remaining third come directly off the ships which arrive at regular intervals



HORSES EXERCISING THEMSELVES ON THE "CHUKKER" AROUND A KRAAL.



REMOUNT DEPOTS FEED THE CAVALRY.

Passing round a huge shell crater on the way to the front.

from the large issuing depôt in England. You will notice, therefore, how details as to supply and demand are made to dovetail. I have watched horses coming off ships after their short voyage, and I have seen the daily arrivals from the veterinary hospitals. Obviously, they are supposed to be fit animals whose residence at the base should, theoretically, be of short duration. For the time being, however, they are at once placed in their classes and different squadrons by a special classification officer, and it depends then on the calls made by the deputy directors of remounts with the different armies as to how long they will stay at the base. It is the D.D.R.s, as they are called, who make the demands for the front. The depôt of which I am writing is primarily responsible for supplying the cavalry divisions as well as the majority of chargers for the officers of those divisions. If you would better appreciate the work it has done under its past and present commandants, let me mention that up to December last over 50,000 animals had been received from the United Kingdom since the formation of the depôt.

At the mouth of an estuary is a second base remount depôt which we will call "B." Here, too, is extremely well ordered and

organised accommodation for 3,000 animals. Often there are more, and it must be said to the credit of this depôt that they have had a great deal to do, for they receive more animals from overseas than any other depôt. It is their function, too, to receive the cured animals from neighbouring veterinary hospitals and to send trainloads to the front, and one cannot doubt, therefore, that their day's work is crowded in every sense. Its marked activity will be better understood when it is stated that at the time of writing nearly 200,000 animals had been received and issued.

Next there is the base depôt, called "C" for the purposes of this article. It is certainly not the least interesting and well arranged of the quintet, and as an example of what a unit of its kind should be it is hard to beat. Its existence may be said to date from January 29th, 1915, when the 17th Remount Squadron arrived from Woolwich. At first the selected site was four miles from the well known port at which the horses disembarked, but the disadvantages soon became apparent, and accordingly about two months later a move was made to the present admirable location. It, too, stands on high

land, and as the horses are well sheltered from keen winds they "do" remarkably well, as is shown by the low figure of sickness. What causes horses and mules on active service to go wrong quicker than anything else—to contract mud-borne diseases, debility, and general loss of mobility—are bad standings and no shelter from piercing winds. Give them the shelter of any primitively rigged screen and some dry ground to stand on and they will endure rain and cold and other unpleasant weather. If they cannot have some comfort at the base depôts they will have small chance "higher up." I need hardly say that consideration of the kind is most certainly forthcoming; indeed, in this respect the horse is better cared for than in England before shipment overseas.

This "C" base depôt has a strength of six squadrons, five adjoining each other, and the sixth a couple of miles away and under the command of an



HARD CONDITIONS ON THE WAY TO THE FRONT.

officer who bears the name of one who was very famous indeed in polo. He is essentially a horse-master, and it is his business, assisted by his small staff, to receive those animals from convalescent horse depôts and get them fit for issue up the line. In this way he may have anything from 500 to 700 animals under his care, farm buildings, as well as covered lines, being utilised for stabling; while, when the grass is growing in the spring and the summer, the poorer animals are given their absolute freedom and the reinvigorating feed. In the summer months, too, it is the custom of this squadron leader to swim his horses in the sea close by. I mention these details because they will show the care, thought, and enterprise of those who are giving all their life-long experience and enthusiasm towards bringing the war-horse back to health and maintaining him at the maximum of his strength and usefulness. I will just add, in reference to "C" depôt as a whole, that since its establishment to the end of 1917 well over 100,000 animals had been received and issued, the average per day of those coming from the veterinary hospitals in the vicinity being 48, while, of course, the arrivals from overseas week after week were substantial.

Passing along the coast there is, appropriately handy to a port, a fourth base depôt. It has its own particular designation for Army purposes, but it is politic that we should know it in print as "D." Its strength is considerable, running to six squadrons, but you will perhaps better understand its size and the activity of those associated with it if I say that it deals with an average from day to day of between 3,000 and 4,000 animals. Like those others I have described, it receives many horses and mules from England, the routine being for an officer and a party of men to be at the docks in readiness for the transport berthing. When once alongside and the "brows" fixed it is a matter of only a few minutes for a few hundred horses to be disembarked. They stream off loose in Indian file, each animal being taken by a waiting man as it steps off the "brow" on shore. Then, when all are ashore and numbers checked, they are given the order to march off, and so they thread their way through mazes of coloured labour and locomotion in the docks out into a town bristling with khaki and activity and away to the base depôt.

Quite pertinently it may be asked what is the order of daily work at a depôt such as I am referring to. Obviously,



AFTER LEAVING A BASE DEPÔT.

An old shell-hole serves admirably for grooming these fine-conditioned mules.

the main thing is to maintain animals for war at the highest possible standard of robust health, and in order to do so it is equally clear that exercise and cleanliness are vitally essential. No one realises this more acutely than those responsible for the direction of the Remount Service. Where horses are congregated in large numbers and where they have been so collected for a long time together, the tendency is to make them more susceptible to disease. The ground has been fouled in spite of the greatest care and, therefore, in order to combat such tendencies the horse-masters of the Remount Service have set exercise and cleanliness before all else. Moreover, until animals are called for, which they may be at any moment, their muscles must not be allowed to relax, but rather to develop and harden from healthy work either in transport or on those ingenious long ropes which have gone far to solve the exercising of remounts with the minimum of labour, or on the roads in the vicinity of depôts. You must understand that the depôts of which I am writing are not primarily intended to get horses fit except those recovering from debility and exhaustion and which are the output of convalescent horse depôts. They are for maintaining the mobility of artillery, transport and cavalry; the point being that the fit horses must be exercised just as the unfit ones must be given lighter work according to the discretion of the squadron leader. Exercise and grooming, therefore, are essential to each day's work, almost as essential, indeed, as watering and feeding.



AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF CAREFUL HORSE MANAGEMENT IN FRANCE.

This gun team was in action six days previous to this turn-out.

Needless to say, the latter are matters for the greatest concern and vigilance. The remount officer at the base who studies the individual horse or groups his squadron for special purposes in feeding must inevitably show the best results. They are details which crowd into the day's work; but when, apart from that, you have the big business of receiving from the group of veterinary hospitals near by and the issuing of fit horses to the front—these things being of daily occurrence—it will be understood what a responsible link the base remount depôts in France are in the whole story of the war horse. This "D" depôt makes all its issues to the front by road, and it is characteristic of the commandant's administration that he personally sees every animal received and issued. Units with divisions at the front send parties for the horses allotted to them, and so they are marched away, probably reaching their destination after a two days' march. It also feeds "C" base remount depôt, an admirable unit also, which in turn does its share in maintaining the tremendous establishment of horses immediately behind the line and on the lines of communication. The figures relating to the activities of "D" show that since 1914 over 150,000 animals have been received and issued. "C" depôt, which may be said to be nearer the northern part of the line than any other, had, from June, 1915, to December, 1917, received and issued nearly 100,000 animals.

It is extremely difficult to compress into a single article all that happens in the long day's work and goes to the credit of these base remount depôts in France. They are not carried on without a show of real ability, zeal and keenness to overcome worries and minor troubles. The men are well off because they have not to share the burdens and perils of those whose job it is to hold the long line; but it is because they are a long remove from the necessary physical fitness. They may not all be up to the handling of horses and mules, and there are not many of them, but depôt commandants and their officers pull through, the best evidence of their success being the excellent results they show.

Just a few more words about those remount rest farms, the success of which the remount directorate in France is

justifiably proud. They are situated in the finest grass country in this part of France, a long way behind the line, and yet not too far away from at least three of the base remount depôts. It was, in the old days of peace, a great country for cheese-making and cattle, and therefore its ideal qualities for turning out weary, thin and exhausted horses to grass will be well understood. The Creator did not create horses to stand in stables and be fed therein. He made them to live in the open, in the wind, rain and sun, and to feed on the herbage of the fields. So the tonic effect of the rest in the quietude of these fields in Normandy is wonderful where debilitated remounts are concerned, and also in a larger degree as regards the convalescents from veterinary hospitals. To them I shall allude in a later article when dealing with the great work in France of the Army Veterinary Service. For the moment I have in mind two notable remount farms, each under an untiring and enthusiastic major. Each will have 1,200 horses under supervision, and as they grow healthy and big and bright-eyed in the fields they are brought in to the stabling, where, assisted in no mean measure by German prisoner labour, they are got fit and hard again for their war work. It is certainly interesting to state that the first of these rest farms—which can be referred to as "No. 4" Advanced Remount Depôt—received and issued roundly 20,000, while "No. 5" received and issued a slightly smaller number. Those are wonderful figures for "mere farms."

Two days' march away there is an advance remount depôt commanded by a gallant major whose only aim in life seems to be to enjoy the maximum of work and the minimum of sleep. His stabling is chiefly in the old beet store sheds of a sugar factory, and he has to work hard because the average strength of the squadron is 700 animals, constantly coming and going in all manner of units. And the great measure of his success is shown by these illuminating figures up to the end of December, 1917: received and issued, some 75,000 animals.

But I am drawing nearer to the line, and that interesting part of my subject must be left for another chapter.

A. SIDNEY GALTREY.

BISHOP MORLEY'S SILVER PORRINGER AND THE RED CROSS SALE

LADY ANNE CLIFFORD, afterward Countess of Dorset, Pembroke and Montgomery, may justly be termed one of the great women of Stuart England. Born in the time of Elizabeth, she was, as a child, present at the English Court. She hurried out of her room to hear the proclamation of James I. She was present (although contrary to orders) to see Elizabeth's funeral. She lived through the troubled times of the Interregnum, the Commonwealth, and the Protectorates. She rejoiced at the accession of Charles II, and lived for some considerable number of years in his reign, dying at the advanced age of eighty-six, but a few years before James II ascended the throne. She took part, as a young girl, in the masques that were so frequently represented at the Elizabethan and Jacobean Courts. She married in succession two great nobles, and carried to each of them a substantial fortune; but the chief part of her early married life was given up to a vehement struggle against what she regarded as the injustice of her father's will, which kept her from succeeding to the vast patrimony of the Cliffords in Westmoreland and Yorkshire. She was the only surviving child of her father, George, third Earl of Cumberland (1558-1605), thirteenth Lord Clifford in direct descent, and representative of that great Northern family. His Clifford title descended to her, and so also should have his estates, but by his will, made unjustly as Lady Anne always felt, and in defiance, as we now know, of an entail which had been entered into, the property devolved upon her father's brother, who succeeded him in the earldom, and passed eventually to his son, who was fifth and last Earl.

All the time that these two men held it, Lady Anne vigorously contested their right to do so. Twice, the King intervened and endeavoured to patch up the quarrel. On both occasions she stoutly refused to accept his intervention. Once, in his presence, she tore up the papers that had been prepared. A second time, she so resented his action, that it was thought by her husband that the phlegmatic King would actually do her physical injury, so angry was he at her determined action. On that occasion she was hurried out of the room, but she stoutly refused to accept the proposed compromise; the Northern lands were hers, and she meant to have them. Eventually they all fell into her hands, because her nephew died without male issue, and by the will of Lady Anne's father the property reverted to the daughter, who ought to have held it thirty years before.

From the moment that she succeeded to her estates neither Knole, Wilton nor London life saw her any more. She went off to Westmoreland and there reigned as a queen over estates which comprised almost the entire county. She restored her five castles of Appleby, Brougham, Brough, Pendragon and Barden Tower, although to the latter place she had really no right whatever, but she spent large sums upon each of these

places. She built and restored seven churches, and founded and endowed almshouses, and she insisted upon her right to exercise in person the hereditary shrievalty of the county which had descended to her from her ancestors from the time of King John; she met and received the judges, entertained them and treated them with all honour and respect; upheld all the unusual privileges which came to her with her estates with stern determination; entered the law courts on many occasions, spent money freely to defend her rights, and won case after case against insubordinate tenants. She defied Oliver Cromwell in open fashion, not only ignoring his claim to rule, but informing him that as often as he chose to destroy her castles she would rebuild them; eventually receiving from him a generous admiration of her resolute behaviour, so much so that he declared, "Let her build what she will, she will have no hindrance from me."

She kept up great state in her Northern dominions, travelling from one castle to another, with her tenantry and the neighbouring gentry as her escort. She ruled over a large establishment, and had her finger upon all the county concerns, political, social and domestic. She was one of the great diarists of the age which produced Pepys and Evelyn, and she had set out in systematic fashion not only the details of her own career, but particulars of all the title deeds that concerned her estates, and long accounts of all her ancestors, with elaborate genealogical pedigrees concerning their marriages and offspring. She laid down definite rules for the management of her estate and for the tenure of her leases. She was the great Lady Bountiful to all of her neighbours and tenantry, but took full credit for everything that she did, and marked her initials or arms upon every building that she erected. She claimed and used all the titles of her ancestors, even some to which she had no right; but nobody had the wish, much less the power, to challenge her claims, and in Westmoreland and the West Riding of Yorkshire she ruled supreme, demanding and receiving an unqualified obedience. She was a woman of the deepest religious character, and united with her autocratic rule a personal humility, sincere devotion, stately scholarship and an austere simplicity.

She was generous to many theological students, giving them allowances to support them at college on condition that they took Holy Orders, and the cup which Sir Ernest Cassel has generously given to the Red Cross Society is proof of the way in which she helped and assisted a noted ecclesiastic, and the manner in which, with her customary generosity, she proclaimed her attachment to him by her will.

George Morley (1597-1684), Bishop of Winchester, to whom the porringer belonged, was her first godson. He was elected to Christchurch in 1615. From that moment she started her allowance to him of £40, and added her utmost persuasions

that he should take Holy Orders. For a while it was doubtful as to whether her wishes would have effect, for Morley was a well known wit, an exceedingly popular young man of clever, engaging conversation, rather a dandy in his costume, and inclined to extravagance in many other directions; but eventually he acceded to the wishes expressed by his godmother, and then she introduced him to her cousin, the Earl of Carnarvon, who gave him his first living, the rectory of Hartfield, and made him his chaplain. Step by step he mounted the theological ladder until he became Bishop of Winchester, when he succeeded to very large emoluments, by means of which he rebuilt the episcopal palace of Wolvesey, and spent large sums on Farnham Castle. Up to the time of his bishopric she continued her allowance to him, and made similar allowances to other young ecclesiastics in whom she was interested.

She left behind her a very elaborate will full of interesting bequests. The original, a superb document beautifully engrossed by one of her own servants and signed in her grandiose manner with huge flourishes on every sheet and sealed in two places with her family arms, is still preserved at Appleby Castle together with many documents relative to her of the highest possible interest. Her account book is there, large portions of her diary, two of her great sets of family history (each in four huge volumes), many documents relative to her parents and her ancestors, information concerning the tombs she erected to her father and mother, and all the declarations concerning the devolution of her estates. By the will she bequeathed objects of importance to many of her relatives, legacies to her numerous friends, money bequests to her servants, and, among other persons, she refers to her godson in the following words: "To the Right Reverend Father in God, George, now Bishop of Winchester, my first godson, forty pounds, to buy a peece of silver, to keepe in memorie of mee." The will is dated May 1st, 1674, and it is evident that the Bishop of Winchester proceeded at once to purchase, or to have made for him, the porringer and cover illustrated in our pages. It is not known for certain who made it, the initials of the maker "T.M." not having yet been identified. It will very likely be found that they represent a maker in York, as Lady Anne refers frequently to the purchase of silver cups in York, and she herself employed two silversmiths in that city for the making of presentation pieces of silver. The cup bears the date mark of 1675. It is roins. high, 9ins. in diameter, and weighs 104 ozs. 9dwts. It bears upon it, set within a lozenge, as Lady Anne herself bore them, the arms of Clifford conjoined with those of Sackville and of Herbert, her own favourite Clifford chequy coat occupying the centre of the field, and the arms of the families of her two husbands one on either side.

The inscription on the cup, preceded by the Greek word for "A Remembrance," reads as follows: "Georgio Episcopo Vintoniensi ab ipsius ad Sacrum Fontem Patrima, Anna Pembrochioe Comitissa Dotaria, legatum, mense martio Anno Dñi 1675." The bowl is cylindrical, embossed and chased



THE MORLEY PORRINGER. LADY ANNE CLIFFORD'S ARMS.

round the lower part with alternate acanthus and palm leaves; the handles are formed as S-shaped scrolls, chased with foliage; the cover, nearly flat, is chased on both sides with spiral acanthus foliage, and is surmounted by a fruit-shaped knob and six acanthus leaves. The porringer has wandered through various hands. It was for a while among the diocesan plate of Winchester, but appears to have been claimed by some member of the Morley family, and passed into the possession of two, if not three, successive generations. Some time ago it was bought by its present generous donor, and now has been devoted by him to the magnificent purpose of the Red Cross Sale. As the gift of so great a person, to so eminent a theologian, it is of particular interest; but, moreover, plate bearing the arms of Lady Anne is exceedingly rare, very few pieces indeed being known to exist, and one of the mysteries connected with the life of this great lady is concerned with the disappearance of a large proportion of the plate which she left behind her. So far as we are able to trace, not one single family who succeeded to silver or gilt

plate, under her will, can now show the examples which came to their ancestors, and there is yet a possibility that some day several fine examples of silver plate which belonged to her may be discovered, as it is almost inconceivable that, leaving behind her such a vast quantity of plate of various kinds as she did,



SHOWING THE INSCRIPTION.

all of it can have entirely disappeared. Meantime, Sir Ernest Cassel's generous gift is one of not more than half a dozen pieces of silver known now to exist bearing the arms of this notable great lady of the North. G. C. WILLIAMSON.

IN THE GARDEN

INCREASING THE CULTIVATION OF ONIONS.

THE Food Production Department is fixing prices with the object of increasing the crops of home grown Onions, and so making up for one deficiency caused by transport difficulties. The shortage of labour will probably prevent the larger growers from adding considerably to their area under Onions, but the smaller men may do much, provided that co-operation be the rule of the day and those nurserymen who have frames and glasshouses undertake the raising of seedlings. The saving to be effected by sowing in drills has often been urged here. The Food Production Department assesses it at between 3½lb. and 4½lb. of seed to the acre, and to this must be joined the fact that transplanted seedlings appear to be much less vulnerable to the attack of fly.

THE CULTIVATION OF LEEKS.

IF there is one vegetable more than any other that deserves extended cultivation in southern counties, surely it is the Leek. Not only is it such a wholesome, palatable and nutritious food, but it has the very great advantage of being in season at a time when the supply of fresh vegetables is at its lowest ebb; that is, in April and May. Curiously enough, these two months are the most difficult in the whole year in which to obtain a supply of fresh vegetables. This is in no way due to the war, for it is the same every spring, and has been so for years past. Winter vegetables are then over, and it is too early for the summer supply. Moreover, it is in the spring when the medicinal properties of fresh vegetables are most appreciated, and even in normal times there is a shortage at this season.

The thoughtful cultivator will make provision for this period by growing hardy Spring Cabbages and late Broccoli; but even these will not stand without protection in a severe winter. It matters not how severe the winter may be, the hardy Leek may be depended upon to stay the course unprotected in the open.

For many years the production of the finest Leeks has been left to our friends north of the Tweed and to those in the extreme north of England. At the present time the Leek is the predominating vegetable in the allotments around Carlisle. For years the allotment holders have looked to the Leek as one of their chief vegetables for use in winter and early spring. Leeks of enormous size and wonderful quality—the larger they are the better is the flavour—were shown, and probably are still shown, in the scores of Leek competitions held in the North. How different from the southern allotments, where the Leek does not figure in one garden in ten.

It is not merely a matter of climate, as was once supposed. Given proper treatment, Leeks do quite as well in southern gardens as in Scotland. It is safe to assert that, in southern counties at least, the cultivation of the Leek is less understood than that of almost any other vegetable.

The chief difficulty that the amateur has to contend with is that of raising the plants. To get the best results, seed should be sown under glass in March. In the North seedlings are bought in pots and planted out in rich soil when about the size of a lead pencil. Although it is recommended to sow under glass, seedlings may be raised satisfactorily in the open by sowing in early

April, and it is quite a good plan to sow both ways for successional crops. Needless to say, a well prepared seed bed with a fine surface is essential. The seedlings should be pricked out into an open, sunny border in May and given a rich soil, when they will then be ready for planting into trenches in July. To get first-class Leeks they should be grown in trenches over a good layer of manure and leaf-soil; but if this cannot be done, a good yield may be obtained with the assistance of superphosphate—using it at the rate of 1oz. to the yard run—soot and diluted sewage. In France and some parts of Belgium, where Leeks are in demand all the year round, especially by the working people for use in soups, a constant supply is kept up by sowing on hot-beds in January and February, making a succession by sowing in the open in March and April, and again in July and August. The seedlings from the last sowing are thinned and left in the seed-bed to stand the winter. Should these Leeks shown signs of bolting in the spring, they are lifted and laid in a trench in a cool place.

In Belgium they are planted deeply with a dibber, and each hole, about 6ins. deep, is filled with prepared soil, consisting chiefly of finely sifted leaf-soil and silver sand, at the time of planting, the soil being dribbled around each plant to allow room for the development of the stem. This is being followed in this country with success. A curious practice sometimes carried out on the Continent at the time of transplanting is that of reducing both roots and foliage by about a third of their length. This is repeated, and it is said to cause the stems to

grow faster. Large Leeks are preferable to small ones. The blanched stem of the Leek should be from 12ins. to 15ins. long, with a uniform circumference of about 6ins. throughout. Blanching should begin immediately the plants are established in their final quarters, and blanching by means of fine soil drawn up around the paper collars is a most satisfactory method. There is no need to go to the expense of buying specially made collars, as strips of stiff brown paper, about 8ins. wide, will answer quite well. The paper is bandaged round the stem and secured in position by two ties of raffia. As the stem lengthens, the collar is raised and fine soil is drawn to the stem. To hold the soil in position boards may be placed either side of the rows, leaving about 1ft. of space between the boards for a double row of Leeks. This is the method adopted with such great success at Aldenham House Gardens, and full credit is due to Mr. Edwin Beckett for this mode of blanching, which is a great advance on the method of banking up the soil around the stems.

However, it is not necessary to go to a great deal of trouble or expense in order to get good Leeks. They are easily grown, and what is perhaps even more encouraging is that they are not affected by maggot or fly as Onions are in so many districts.

Leeks are by many preferred to Onions because of their milder flavour, and as Onions are less plentiful than they were, there is a greater demand for Leeks than usual this season.

With regard to varieties, one cannot do better than refer to the Report of the Trial of Leeks at Wisley, just issued by the

Royal Horticultural Society. The four varieties to receive awards of merit are Champion and International Prize, sent by Messrs. Dobbie and Co.; Prizetaker and Royal Favourite, sent by Messrs. Sutton and Sons. The following gave good results and are highly commended: Improved Musselburgh, Large Early Poitou, Large Rouen, Renton's Monarch and The Lyon.

VENETIAN SUMACH OR SMOKE PLANT.

RHUS cotinus is a low tree or sprading shrub appropriately known as the smoke plant. Seen from a distance when in full flower and long after, its masses of dense feathery inflorescences create a smoke-like effect, rising from the ground level to its uppermost branches, a height of 15ft. or thereabouts. It is an excellent subject for planting in a bed, on a lawn or open space, and it should be placed far enough away from the house so that its delightful smoky effect may be fully appreciated from the windows. This is a fairly common shrub in our gardens, but it is usually sandwiched in among a host of other things in what is commonly called a shrubbery. To be seen to its full advantage it requires an open space with plenty of room to spread outwards. The width of a well grown plant should far exceed its height, and it should be clothed to the ground with its feathery plumes. The Smoke tree has other popular names, the best known being Venetian Sumach, but we have also heard it called Burning Bush, and Wig tree. The pretty smoky effect of this bush is created by its curious flowers borne in loose panicles, the threadlike stalks of which lengthen and become hairy after flowering, so that a delightful effect, changing from misty brown to smoky grey is kept up from mid-June until late September. Few hardy deciduous shrubs are so ornamental, and its good qualities are appreciated in the garden or in association with cut flowers for dinner-table decoration. Its flowers are more delicate than



A NEAR VIEW OF THE SMOKE PLANT.

the finest ostrich feathers, although, happily, the latter are less frequently seen in these days. The accompanying illustration shows the purple hued variety of the Venetian Sumach, *R. cotinus atropurpurea*, one of the most pleasing of all in flower and leafage. The writer has pleasant recollections of the Venetian Sumach growing wild on the slopes of the Balkan

mountains. Standing at the foot of the grassy hills this beautiful rambling shrub was seen in masses like smoke spreading over the hillside. The effect was most beautiful when flowers were spangled with morning dew. Its cultivation is of the easiest, for it will thrive on poor, dry, stony soil, on sunny banks or any open situation, and it may be planted now. H. C.

LITERATURE

A BOOK OF THE WEEK

Last Lectures by Wilfrid Ward, with an Introductory Study by Mrs. Wilfrid Ward. (Longmans, Green.)

THE qualities that go to the making of a biographer can, without any very great difficulty, be set out fairly plainly, but the qualities which distinguish a really great biographer are less easy of analysis. Mr. Chesterton, in an article contributed to the *Dublin Review*, written after the death of Wilfrid Ward, said of him that he "dealt with life and the springs of life," and that "few of us have vitality enough to live the life of another." This living the life of another man was so much a habit of mind of Wilfrid Ward that in an introductory study prefixed to this volume of lectures Mrs. Ward says that she herself had lived successively in the company of her father-in-law, whom she had never known, of Cardinal Wiseman, of Aubrey de Vere, and, she adds: "all our life together was lived under the shadow of Cardinal Newman."

In the introduction to his "Life of Cardinal Newman" Ward spoke of the extraordinary insight which Newman had into the difficulties of other people. This sympathy which Wilfrid Ward perceived in the character of his great hero was probably the trait in his own character which enabled him to bring to his four great biographies the rare quality that distinguishes them.

To his lasting regret Ward was never a member of either Oxford or Cambridge Universities, but in his childhood and youth he enjoyed those peculiar advantages which accrue to the son of a distinguished man. He thus inherited, as it were, the friendships of his father, and he grew up in the society of Tennyson, Jowett, Jebb, R. H. Hutton, Cardinal Manning, Mr. Gladstone and almost all the prominent men of that generation. So it comes about that as Mr. Chesterton says: "it was the paradox of Wilfrid Ward that he was a man astonishingly young for his years . . . yet seemed somehow to be the contemporary of the great men whom he had known when he was a boy." Mrs. Ward believes that this early environment, combined with the deprivation of a University career, gained for him an independence of outlook, and even secured for him the kind of strength that used to be a marked characteristic of Englishmen, and is not now a marked characteristic of our University life.

The lectures, hitherto unpublished, which make up this volume were delivered in the United States in 1914-15, and at the Royal Institution in 1915. In them we have Wilfrid Ward in a curiously different mood from that in which he wrote his life of Newman. Set apart from the stern restraint and the severely scholarly desire to hold the balance evenly that a biography imposes, he had, in these lectures, a medium which permitted a more generous enthusiasm and *abandon*, as it were, which enabled him with the master passion of a hero worshipper to claim for Newman qualities of mind greatly in excess of those which his critics have commonly been ready to allow. If he does not carry us with him all the way in his hero worship, it must at least be conceded that those who place Newman highly as a thinker and philosopher of history are certainly not confined to those who sympathise with his theological views. Curiously enough, the critics who most underrate Newman's ability and place in contemporary thought are the most ready to greet with effusion his literary gifts, as though they were something apart from his deepest work. Any attempt to separate an author's style from his purpose and philosophy must, as Ward says in an extremely interesting lecture on the source of Newman's style, be unreal and undiscerning.

Newman himself more than once expressed his feeling that really great writing can be achieved only by something very different from the aim at diction for its own sake. Familiarity with good models—for we know that Gibbon and Cicero both affected him—is only a preparation. His artist's nature, his sense of form, was cultivated and perfected by such reading. It tuned the instrument, so to speak. But the really great style, the great performance on the instrument, is achieved primarily by conviction and thought stimulating the writer to their expression. It can never be gained merely by a study of the tricks of graceful diction.

A great author (he writes in one of the Dublin lectures) is not one who merely has a *copia verborum*, whether in prose or verse, and can, as it were, turn on at his will any number of splendid phrases and swelling sentences; but he is one who has something to say and knows how to say it. . . . He is master of the two-fold *Logos*, the thought and the word, distinct, but inseparable from each other. He may, if so be, elaborate his compositions, or he may pour out his improvisations, but in either case he has but one aim, which he keeps steadily before him. . . . That aim is to give forth what he has within him; and from his very earnestness it comes to pass that, whatever be the splendour of his diction or the harmony of his periods, he has with him the charm of an incommunicable simplicity.

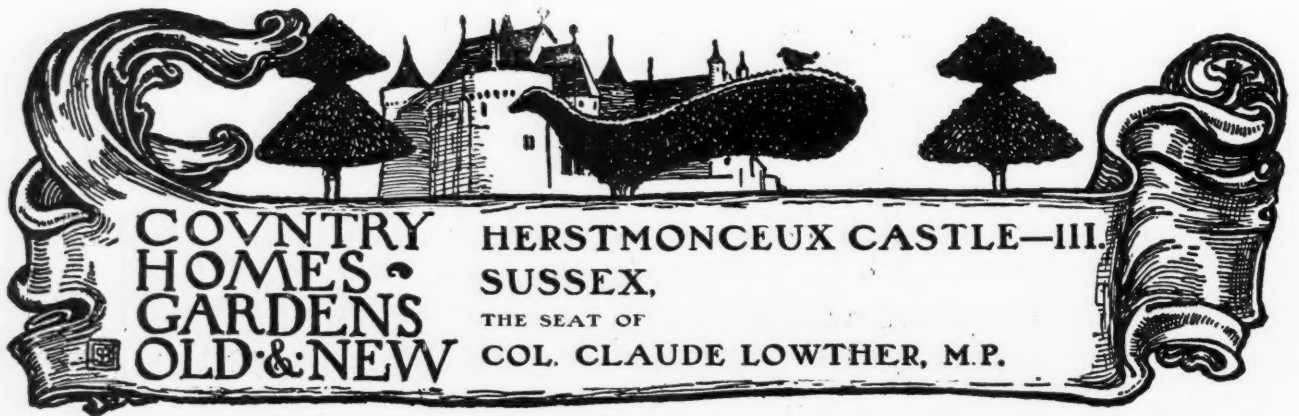
Not all the lectures, however, deal with Newman, and among the most interesting are three dealing with the work of a biographer—the nature and limits of a character study, the character study in autobiography and fiction and the place of candour in biography—in which the author expounds the principles which have governed his own work in the field of biography. Despite, however, the special interest the last words of any man must have—and these last words of Wilfrid Ward are full of self revelation—it is to the sketch of his life most readers will wish to turn. Of his early environment we have already spoken, and here it is a pleasure to note that Ward left some five or six chapters of reminiscences in manuscript and a fragmentary preparation for more, so that we may look forward to a full life not wholly dependent upon the skill of the biographer. Of the man as he was in his later years Mrs. Ward gives a delightfully vivid picture. We see him as almost boyish in his exuberance, fond of good things—"singing great chunks of Italian opera or Gilbert and Sullivan, or demoralising the nursery, or exhausting everyone within reach at tennis"—and never knowing intervals of sluggish mental and physical life by which most men, Mrs. Ward thinks, are inclined to benefit. When absorbed in his work nothing would disconcert him. "Noise or glare or discomfort in his surroundings had no effect upon him." He was, too, a skilful musician, and before Sir Herbert Tree went on the stage he and Ward acted together in private theatricals. Indeed, one theatrical manager at least offered him an engagement. In the theatricals which he arranged for his children he had the same impatience with carelessness as to detail which in his writing sometimes would mean months of work devoted to a single chapter of a book. Ward belonged to the race of great talkers, and the charm of his talk, says Mrs. Ward,

lay greatly in his power of presentation. He would make you realise perhaps the intensely humorous aspect of some very serious person, he would bring the individual into objective relief and in the same breath give a bit of careful thought out analysis of the man's mentality or the woman's complexity. Even in dreams his appreciation of character was awake.

But, unlike most talkers, he was a good listener, and loved to get two or three men in an orgy of talk. "It was a red letter day when Mr. Chesterton and Mr. George Wyndham began talking to us at 1.30, and never drew breath until two ladies looked in for tea as the clock struck five, and they came back to earth with a shock and fled away."

For ten years Ward was editor of the *Dublin Review*, and it is due to him that the circulation quadrupled and that the *Review* has attained to a place entirely singular for a Roman Catholic journal in this country. Among his contributors were many well known members of the Church of England, such as Lord Halifax, Lord Hugh Cecil, Mr. Chesterton and Mr. Wyndham. Indeed, Dr. Sadler sums up his place in English life most aptly when he speaks of him as "a liaison officer" between the Roman Church and religious thinkers outside of it.

With the death of Wilfrid Ward in 1916 there passed one who stood almost alone among his co-religionists in his sympathy with and understanding of the English Church. Scrupulously just in all his deductions from history, at once a chivalrous and penetrating controversialist, he, with his work, may well stand as an example of the best product of England and her scholarly tradition. Though there was never a more zealous subject of the Sovereign Pontiff, he was in all things a typical Englishman. M.



A VISITOR, after crossing the moat by the bridge and entering through the great gateway, finds himself in the vaulted basement of the gate-house, and will at once have his attention attracted by an old fireplace in the wall on his right, which seems a curious fitting for a gateway. The reader must remember that this was never a *porte cochère* and was intended to be entered on foot. It could not be driven through because it only gave access to the cloister and was no doubt closed by great doors on the inside as well as on the outside. Hence this vaulted space was, in fact, a chamber, all the pleasanter for being warmed. On the right and on the left hand of one entering are doorways admitting to the chambers on either side of the gate-house. That on the left opened

into what was the guard-room and is now the dining-room. It has a most attractive old-world aspect, very different from the ruinous state in which the present writer beheld it years ago when he paid sixpence there for a cup of tea to be drunk at a trestled table in the courtyard. The floor is now paved, the fireplace reconstructed at the far end, a great bay window looks into the courtyard and some fine pieces of oak furniture complete the picture. In the window stands, while awaiting its final place in the future chapel, a magnificent wrought iron lectern—one of the most remarkable pieces of mediæval ironwork existing. It dates from the thirteenth century and came out of a church in Normandy. It is not like the cast *dinanderie* lecterns so much sought after, but is a far finer and rarer work—in fact unique—every part of it ham-

mered into form. The pedestal opens with a door, and there is a small money-box within—the whole in good preservation and of great value.

Beyond the dining-room come the servants' apartments, convenient for their purpose, but into them we need not enter. The doorway on the other side of the gate-house frames one of the earliest linen-fold doors existing. It used to admit to a succession of small rooms, apparently manorial offices. These have been cleared away, the floor above them not replaced, and the great space thus provided now splendidly houses the carved oak staircase once at Tibbald's. At the foot of the stairs is a fireplace where visitors gather; at the top of them a gallery. The whole composition is admirable. A doorway from the gallery admits to the outer of two reception rooms which are in proportion, arrangement, contents, and colouring so exceedingly beautiful that I despair of giving to the reader the least idea of them. A reference to the old plan of the first floor will show their position. The room we first enter occupies the



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FROM THE EAST PARK.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



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THE STAIRCASE—FROM TIBBALD'S PARK.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



Copyright

FROM THE GATE-HOUSE, LOOKING NORTH.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



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INTERIOR OF GATE-HOUSE.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

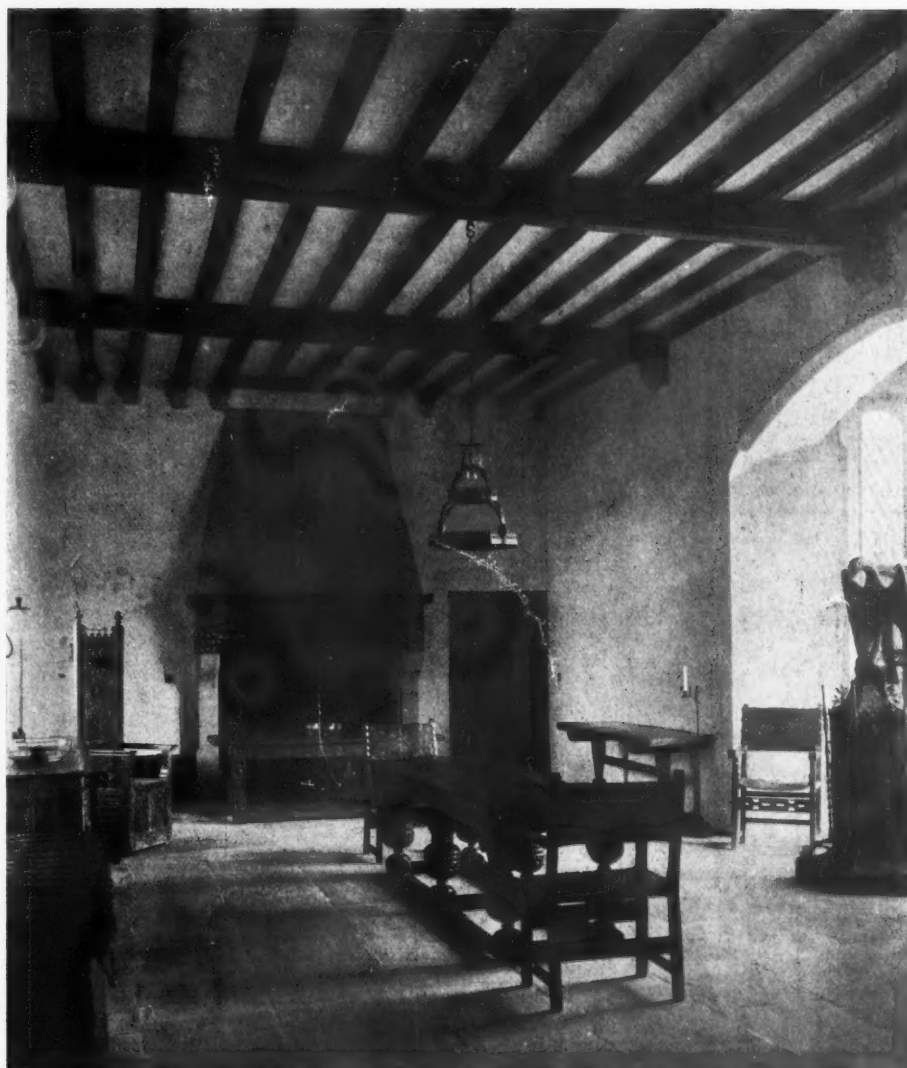
south-east angle of [the castle and the little corner tower-chamber opens into it. The larger room beyond, into which we can at once look through a pair of wrought iron gates, occupies the area of the former Lady's Bower and extends somewhat beyond it; it thus includes the great mullioned bow window which is so prominent a feature in every view of the Castle's east façade. Two new windows have also been opened on to the courtyard through the wall formerly blinded by the corridor over the cloister. Both rooms are entirely hung with rich old Italian brocades. If the reader imagines himself to be standing where the camera was placed for our photograph, he has a window on his right hand, the opening to the little tower-chamber behind his right shoulder, and, on his left hand, the most striking feature in the room. It is an opening into a shallow vestibule or passage into which he looks through an arcading of old gilded wood and across it to a wall hung with a wonderful antique Italian velvet, the most delicious red in the world. The invisible furniture must be imagined. What the photograph shows is a rare and beautiful fifteenth century Italian gilt X chair and a canopied couch hung and pillowed with a perfect harmony of all the anemone colours—mauve, violet, purple and rose.

Passing through the iron gates you enter the Lady's Bower, which is no less rare and wonderful. On your right is the great bow window with floor and breastwork of stone, and in the midst of it, on a mediaeval sculptured fragment lovely in detail, the marble figure by Bouchardon, called *L'Enfant Pleureur*. It is a more beautiful rendering of the subject than Blasset's well known group on the monument of Canon Lucas in Amiens Cathedral. A few roses scattered on the pavement add to the charm of this fair alcove. Over against the window is a sculptured sixteenth century fireplace from a château near Rouen which belonged to Colonel Lowther. The two windows on the west side are the only remaining structural features. The great effect is not produced by them, but by the glorious assemblage of old brocades, velvets, and other fabrics, and the delightful furniture they cover and surround. On the wall opposite the iron gates hangs a piece of Gobelins, after a design by Coypel; it is entitled "*La Levée de Diane Chasseresse*," and is one of a

set of four, now scattered. The colours (rose red and apple green) are wonderfully preserved and the decorative value of the piece is very high. I can do no more than mention the mirrors from St. Cloud, some Louis XV tables, and cire-perdu candelabra by Clodion; but the reader's attention should be specially called to the sofa in the foreground. It is really the base for a spinet, sixteenth century Italian woodwork in untouched old gilding, made for a Pope. The glow and richness of it are surprising. I will waste no energy in attempting to describe the rare and gorgeous old stuffs here combined with a perfect harmony. They appeal to the eye, not to the ear. It is enough to say that Colonel Lowther possesses an almost unique power of creating in every room he decorates an atmosphere of romance.

With the remainder of the Castle we must deal more briefly. The Drummer's Hall and the great bedchamber over the dining-room are approached by a spiral staircase in one of the gate-house towers as well as by an old straight stone staircase which led up from a corner of the cloister. The Drummer's Hall is decorated with oak paneling brought from another house which belonged to Colonel Lowther. It looks as if it had been designed for this place and forms a suitable background for a genuine four-post Elizabethan bedstead. The neighbouring bedchamber is immense, its walls hung with old blue brocade and its furniture and stuffs entertaining and delightful. Ancient tower chambers and corners have been cleverly turned into dressing rooms, bathrooms and hanging closets, with which all the bedrooms are conveniently supplied: a particular in which so many country houses are deficient.

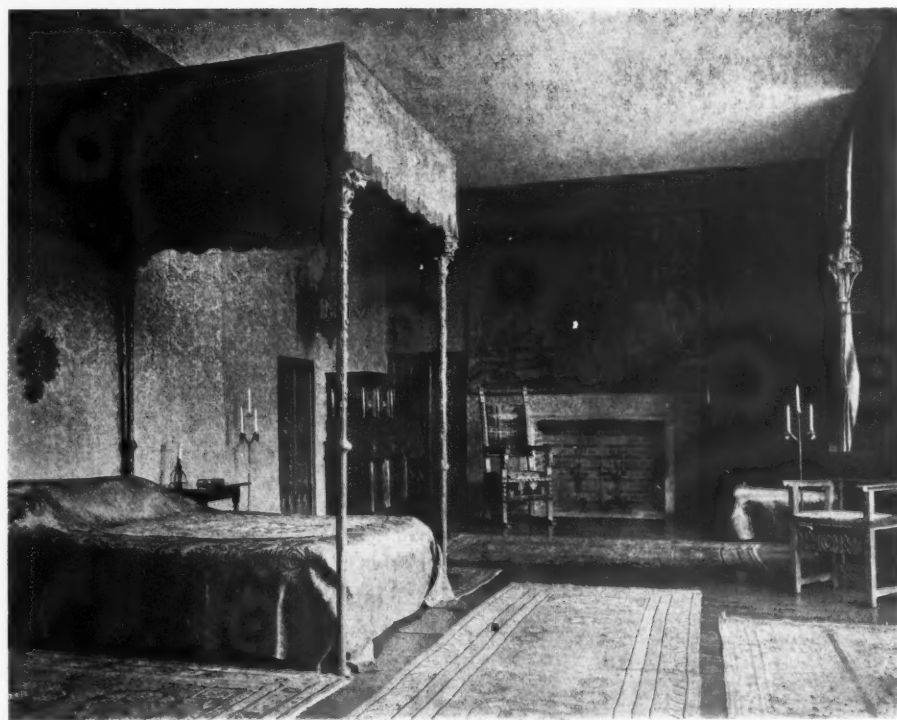
In conclusion, a word remains to be said about the Parish Church and its extremely interesting historical monuments. It is a much altered Early English building and, in common with many churches of the period, has undergone considerable remodelling at several later dates. The chantry chapel on the north was built about the same time as the Castle; the chancel was mostly rebuilt when the Castle was dismantled, and out of materials robbed from it. There is a richly decorated canopied tomb, open on one side to the chancel on the other to the chantry, which was erected in 1534 to the memory of Thomas Lord Dacre and his son. It was erected in accordance with the will of the former and intended also to serve the



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THE DINING-ROOM.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



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THE GREAT BEDROOM.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

purpose of an "Easter Sepulchre." A very fine brass commemorates Sir William Fiennes, who died in 1402. He was the father of the castle builder. There is also a



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THE DRUMMER'S HALL.

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ANTE-ROOM TO THE LADY'S BOWER.

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IN THE LADY'S BOWER.



L'ENFANT PLEUREUR.

"C.L."



OAK CREDENCE of a transitional style opening in two cupboards and a drawer, the former carved with Virgin and Child and female saint under canopies. The lock plates and hinges, the owner's arms, linen fold and pendant being in the late Gothic taste. Burgundian. Circa 1500.



WALNUT CABINET "a deux corps," both portions opening in cupboards framed in three-quarter columns with strong entasis. Portraits of Francois I and Henri II in ovals, framed in mid-sixteenth century mouldings, occupy the upper doors. The frieze of lower portion forms a drawer decorated with three lion masks. French. Circa 1560.

mediaeval font in which many a Fiennes was no doubt baptised. Mindful of what has already been accomplished, it is scarcely possible for one to doubt but that the north façade, so much of which is still in good preservation right to the

battlements, will likewise some day be saved from destruction by the ivy and honourably repaired, and rooms behind it reconstructed. It is to be hoped that Colonel Lowther may preserve over that act of salvation also.

MARTIN CONWAY.

[As will be seen from the letters from Colonel Claude Lowther and Mr. C. E. Powell printed in the Correspondence pages of this issue, an error was made, in the second article on Herstmonceux, in stating that Mr. Powell was the architect employed by Colonel Lowther in the reconstruction. Mr. Merrell and Mr. Cecil Perkins, A.R.I.B.A., were the two architects under whose supervision the work was carried out.—Ed.]



THE FIRST PRINTED BOOK ON AGRICULTURE

BY DR. E. J. RUSSELL.

WHAT is believed to be the first printed book on agriculture has recently been secured for the Library of the Rothamsted Experimental Station through the generosity of Captain the Hon. Rupert Guinness, C.M.G., M.P., who, on learning that the volume was to be liberated owing to the dispersal of the library where it has for long been preserved, at once secured it and presented it to the Rothamsted Library.

The book is the "Opus Ruralium Commodorum," written by Petrus Crescentius about the year 1300. It remained in manuscript till 1471, and when then printed at Augsburg at the Press of Johannes Schüssler it had an immediate and astonishing success, no fewer than twelve editions being printed at different presses during the next thirty years, and at least twelve others before the end of the

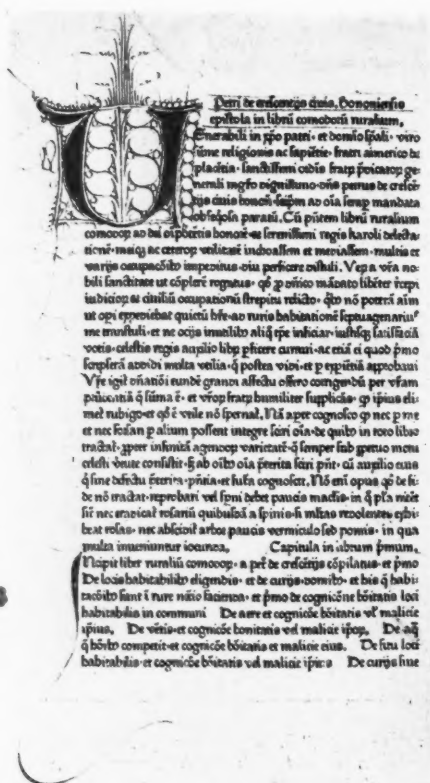
sixteenth century. Many of these are large folio editions, and some are of great beauty. No book on agriculture, either before or since, has been so often and so well printed.

The illustrations show the character of the printing, though they necessarily cannot do justice to the capital letters, which, as usual in the early days, were done by hand, and illuminated in brilliant red and beautiful blues and greens. Fig. 1 shows the first page (there is, of course, no

formality of a title page; this only came later), and it contains the introductory "epistola." Fig. 2 shows the opening of the third book dealing with the cultivation of crops. Fig. 3 is the end of the fifth book and the beginning of the sixth on the Kitchen Garden. Fig. 4, with its ornate capitals, shows the seventh book, on Meadows and Wooded Pastures; while Fig. 5 shows the last page with the printer's name and date.

The Rothamsted Library is also fortunate in possessing some of the later editions of the same book; one, kindly given by Lady Wernher, printed at Argentina in 1486. The editions have not yet been compared, and it is more than possible that they are not from the same MS. Illustrations are shown in Figs. 6-10. This is printed in double columns, but the type is Gothic, and not the clear Roman for which the Italian presses afterwards became famed. As before, the capitals are all done by hand in beautiful reds and blues; the former have kept their brilliancy, though the latter have somewhat faded. In point of beauty it is difficult to choose between the volumes; both are so far ahead of the productions of later times. Among other editions in our Library may be noted the Venice edition of 1490, less beautiful than its predecessor; that of 1519, interesting because of its woodcuts of agricultural operations; and the Basle edition of 1548, in which the title was changed—this last is the best known and most quoted edition.

Petrus Crescentius was born in 1230 and died about 1320. He was a citizen of Bologna and got mixed up in the disturbances then running high between the Guelphs and the Ghibbelines; he



1. The opening page of Crescentius. 1471 Edition.

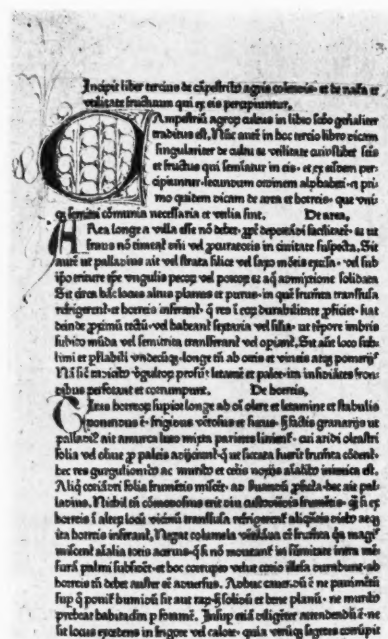


FIG. 2.—Beginning of Third Book, 1471 Edition. This section deals with the courtyard and barn.

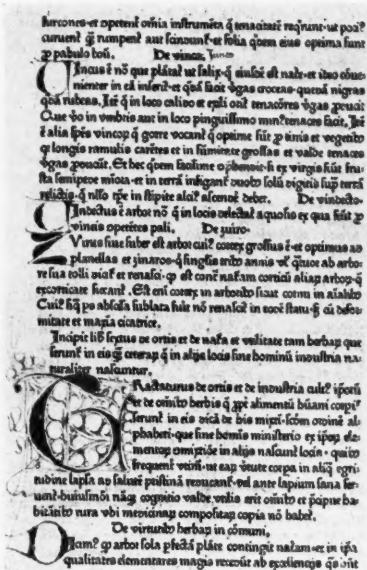


FIG. 3.—1471 Edition. Beginning of
Sixth Book on the Kitchen Garden.



FIG. 4.—1471 Edition. *Beginning of Seventh Book on meadows and wooded pastures.*

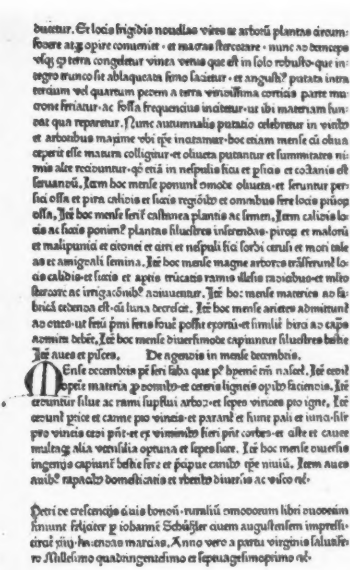


FIG. 5.—1471 Edition. Last page showing printer's name and date.

when he was over seventy. But, though old, he still had plenty of vitality. He started farming at his villa at San Nicolas in much the same way as other retired politicians have done (*e.g.*, Lord Townshend of turnip fame among the number), and not only farmed but also wrote this book about farming. He was sufficiently anxious about its accuracy to secure the aid of the best experts available: he was helped by the monks and the men of science at the University of Bologna, and the MS. was read by Amerigo, the learned Head of the Dominican Order. Thus the book had a considerable backing of authority when it was presented to the world.

The work is divided into twelve books. The first deals with air, wind and water, the situation and building of the house, and the duties of the owner. Life in mediæval times was not free from little or even large worries: "You must consider," says the writer, "how the courtyard should be made, it may be behind the other houses or some distance away. If near the other buildings it need not be so strong because it is safer from thieves, and also because if necessary the help of the men of the farm is at hand. . . . If in a dangerous part exposed to powerful enemies it is better to leave the district than madly and inconsiderately dispose

oneself to be killed, unless great riches enable the lord to build a castle."

The second book treats of the nature of the plant, its parts and growth, the needs of the plant, cultivation, soil fertility and sterility, and the change of weeds into cultivated plants. The third deals with the common cultivated plants of mediæval Europe—oats, peas, vetches, hemp, wheat, beans, barley, lupines, sorghum, panic grass, flax, rye and millet. The fourth is devoted to vines, vineyards and wines. The fifth deals with trees—fruit trees and "other useful" trees. The sixth is the Kitchen Garden book, and discusses many useful plants (130 in all) in alphabetical order—celery, beet, cabbage, onion, gourd, garlic, turnip, etc.

The instructions given for turnips are interesting, considering that they were written in 1300. The turnip, says the author, likes a rich ground, though it can be grown on the farm or the garden; it is sown in July and August. If sown thinly it gives larger plants: if sown too thickly it can be transplanted. It can, however, be sown between panic and millet and, when these are removed, it should be weeded. Recipes for preserving the crop are given, including one for making it into a preserve with salt, honey, vinegar, horse-radish, mustard and fennel.



FIG. 6.—I486 Edition. Printed at Argentina.
Book 2: signs of fertility and sterility in soil.

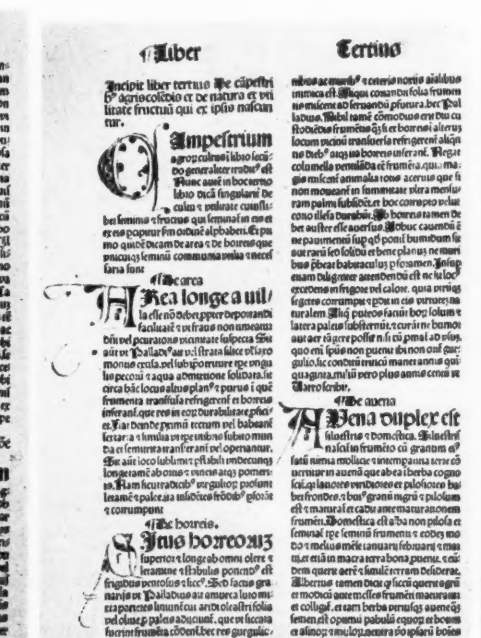


FIG. 7.—1486 Edition. Third Book.

FIG. 8.—1486 *Edition*. *Book 3*.



FIG. 9.—1486 Edition. Book 4. On vines and wines.

FIG. 10.—1486 Edition. Book 10.
The taking of wildfowl.

FIG. 11.—1486 Edition. Book II. Summary of the previous books.

Book eight deals first with the gardens of "nobles and kings," and afterwards with the gardens of "the mediocrity." Next comes a treatise on animals with no fewer than twelve chapters on bees, which, of course, were of great importance in mediæval times as the source of sugar; and judging from the cookery recipes scattered throughout the book, honey was in great demand in mediæval kitchens.

Book ten deals with hunting, hawking and the taking of wild animals generally; while book eleven is a general

summary of the whole, followed by book twelve a calendar of farm and garden operations.

As might be expected, *Crecentius* drew very largely on the Latin writers, *Columella*, *Varro*, *Cato* and *Palladius*, for his information, and on *Pliny* for information about crops. He worked up the material scattered throughout their writings into a single volume that appealed greatly to the men of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The book was written in Latin, and in the Augsburg edition the printer has followed the scribe in the copious use of contractions. It was translated into Tuscan in 1478, into French in 1486, and into German in 1518 or earlier, but no English translation seems to have been made. *Fitzherbert*, the early sixteenth century English agricultural writer, must have known of the book, but he was far too vigorous a personality to be a mere translator of other people's work. When *Markham* came on the scene at the beginning of the seventeenth century, *Crecentius* was on the wane, and the Continental book *Markham* translated was that of *Estienne* and *Liebault*. But this is arranged on the same general plan as *Crecentius* and may derive much from him: it will be interesting to make the comparison. English agriculture admittedly owes most of its improvements during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to the Continent, and these old volumes are of great importance in enabling us to reconstruct the agricultural teaching of the day, and in revealing to us the mental equipment with which intelligent agriculturists proceeded on their tasks.

Students of agricultural history owe a great debt of gratitude to Captain Guinness for so generously ensuring that this superb copy of the first printed agricultural book should be made accessible to them in the Rothamsted Library.

THE GYPSY FOLK

As I came down the road to-day
I passed the gypsy folk,
They looked at me, and laughed at me,
But never a word they spoke.

I know to-night they'll make their fire
Beneath the open sky,
And they'll cook the birds they stole from me,
And see the stars drift by.

And while they tend the flickering flames,
And watch the thin blue smoke,
They'll pity me in my great house,
Those homeless gypsy folk!

JOAN CAMPBELL.



FIG. 12.—1486 Edition. The previous owners

CORRESPONDENCE

HERSTMONCEUX.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I see that in Sir Martin Conway's description of Herstmonceux Castle in your issue of March 2nd he refers to my architect, Mr. Powell. He has evidently been misinformed on this point. The only architects who helped me to carry out my designs in the reconstruction of Herstmonceux Castle were Mr. Merrell and Mr. Cecil Perkins, A.R.I.B.A. I am also deeply indebted to the intelligence and dexterity shown by my foreman and master builder, Mr. Cutler, who has added new work to old without any apparent line of demarcation.—CLAUDE LOWTHER.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I understand that you have mentioned me as the architect to the work that has been so ably done in the rehabilitation of Herstmonceux Castle. This is entirely wrong. I had nothing whatever to do with it. Two other architects, Messrs. Merrell and C. H. Perkins, A.R.I.B.A., did the work, the latter being responsible for the portion of the Banqueting Hall erected. Kindly give this correction of your statement as prominent a position in your next issue as possible, and oblige.—CHARLES E. POWELL.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In the most interesting description of Herstmonceux which appeared in your issue of March 2nd the writer says, "curiously enough, the rooms facing south were all unimportant." Such an arrangement was, in fact, very general at about the time the castle was built and later, and was based on a theory as old as Hippocrates, to the effect that "the south wind was altogether pestilent." We find that view clearly stated by Dr. Andrew Boorde in his "Dyetary of Helth," published in or about 1542. When giving advice as to the best aspect to select when building a house he says: "And orde & edify the howse so that the pryncypall and chefe prospectes may be East and West—for the South wynde doth corrupt and doth make evyl vapours. The East wynde is temperate, fryske, and fragraunt. The West wynde is mutable. The North wynde purgeth yll vapours; wherefore, better it is, of the two worst, that the wyndowes do open playne North than playne South."—HENRY HANNEN.

A WAR GARDENS LEAGUE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In January, 1917, a War Gardens League was started over a small district of scattered homesteads within three miles of a market town and six miles of a large camp. Most of the cottages have gardens varying in size from a quarter to three-quarters of an acre. Some few are clustered together along the high road, with allotments available for such tenants as wish to acquire them. The object of the League is to supply members with strong young vegetable plants and reliable seeds other than potatoes. The membership fee is 1s. annually. The League was initiated under the auspices of the Sub-district War Agricultural Committee, but complete power was given to the president and secretary to arrange for the distribution and allotment of seeds and seedlings. Sixty-six members were enrolled, and 8s. in donations was contributed unasked towards the expenses of the League. The sum of £2 18s. 2d. was laid out on seeds as follows: Cabbage, broccoli, kale, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and lettuce, which were raised by the president's gardener and supplemented, when the time came for planting out, by the surplus plants from his garden. Fifty-two ounces of onion, parsnip and carrot seed, and 25 pints of beans were purchased for direct planting. The distribution of seeds was made in March, and of seedlings in June and July. Each member was supplied in proportion to his requirements and the size of his garden; but, taking a rough average, the allotment per garden worked out at 130 young plants, three-quarters of an ounce of seed (various) and a quarter of a pint of beans. The incidental expenses of the League are small, and for the coming season we had a balance in hand of 10d. The members have had the chance of raising a crop of vegetables for the outlay of 1s. subscription, worth approximately 30s. Many have been encouraged to grow varieties they have hitherto considered impossible to raise, and, on the whole, a distinctly higher yield, both as to quality and quantity, is observable. In all rural enterprise a great deal depends on personality. People living some distance from each other are apt to be suspicious of innovations, unwilling to try anything new and afraid to take risks; they have little opportunity to exchange ideas with those whose experience is wider than their own, and they feel that the ills they know are preferable to the unknown improvement they are promised. It requires a real effort of faith on the part of the slow but independent countryman to invest even 1s. in a novel venture. He finds it easier to spend 6d. on onion seed "which never comes up" because "I does it every year" than to embark upon a fresh setting of his garden. The success of this particular War Gardens League is due not only to the favourable locality, but to the confidence the members have in their president and hon. secretary. Given confidence on the one hand, with energy and promptitude and method on the other, we have here a practical illustration of the strength of co-operation. An organisation such as this cannot but be an asset to the productivity of a rural neighbourhood. The price of seeds is rising, and the advantages of co-operative buying in 1918 will be even more apparent than it was in 1917.—R. F. M. L.

COMRADES OF THE GREAT WAR.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Those who are interested in this movement may like to know how it strikes an American Ally. One of the survivors of the Army of the Potomac, Captain John E. Norcross, writing to me from Brooklyn, says: "Not long ago I read a statement to the effect that in England it is contemplated to form

an association of men who served their country in a military capacity in this present war, somewhat on the lines of the Grand Army of the Republic in the United States. The Grand Army dates from 1866, and is composed of men who fought in the Army or Navy under the Stars and Stripes, during the War for the Union. In it there is no distinction of rank, General Grant and General Sherman did not disdain to stand beside the former private. Five Presidents have been Comrades, and, on one notable occasion, three ex-Presidents of the United States were in the column when it passed in review—the 'March Past,' as your people call it—before the Commander-in-Chief. And I was one of the marchers. After more than fifty years its numbers are lessening hour by hour, and when the last soldier of the Union Army dies the Grand Army of the Republic will cease to exist. The youngest Comrade is Brigadier-General John L. Clem, born in 1851, a drummer-boy who earned fame and won renown at Shiloh in 1862, appointed to the Regular Army by President Grant, and retired for age in 1915, having gone up all the grades from Second-Lieutenant. It is fitting that, even now, while battles are raging, the soldiers of England should, as their brothers in America did, now more than half a century ago, form just such an association to remind them of the days of trial and danger. Our Grand Army was not organised until the war was ended, but there is no reason why the men who have returned from the front, disabled for further service, should not begin the formation of such a society. The Military Order of the Loyal Legion is composed of men who had commissioned rank in the Army or Navy during the war, but it has also the hereditary feature, so that a Companion's descendants may become Companions. General Grant was a Companion, so was his son, Fred, one of the second class; now he is dead, and his son, Ulysses, takes his place."—J. LANDEFAR LUCAS.

THE AMATEUR TOMATO GROWER.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In COUNTRY LIFE of March 2nd you advise amateurs to try to grow tomatoes. Would it be any encouragement to them to know what was done by a complete amateur last year in a Dorset garden? On the head-gardener joining the Army, the lady's maid gallantly undertook to keep the glass houses going until his return. She had never done any gardening before, and worked entirely by books and only in her spare time. She started the seeds in February in the heated vinery, raising 200 plants. Eighty-six were planted out in the cool vinery floor between rows of early potatoes, also in boxes round the staging. The remainder were planted against the south wall between the fruit trees. Nearly all the plants had six trusses of nine fruits grown on the single stem. A little over 3cwt. of fruit was cut. Some were sent to market, a weekly supply to the local Red Cross hospital, and the household of twelve people was supplied with ripe fruit until Christmas, besides quantities of chutney, pickle and green tomato jam being made from the unripe fruit.—LILLIAN E. MOORE, Landworker.

BLACK CURRANT RUM.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—A correspondent asks for a recipe for making black currant rum. Rum jelly is a well known recipe for a cold in most parts of the Midland Counties. One way of making it is thus: Boil 2lb. of bright coarse sugar and 2lb. of well ripened fruit, well crushed, to a clear syrup and strain, mix with the syrup 4oz. of isinglass, add the juice of a lemon, and while the items are hot and together add a pint of fine old Jamaica rum. Pour the mixture into moulds or shallow glass jars and set away until required. A teaspoonful of the jelly in a cup of hot water will get at the root of the worst sort of cold, and doses at intervals for two days should effect a complete cure. Elderberry, damsons or blackberries may be used in the same way and are equally good, but in every case the fruit must be just ripe and plucked dry.—THOMAS RATCLIFFE.

CONY AND WATER.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Not long ago I was rather puzzled to read an article in which it was stated that rabbits and hares, as well as game-birds, are much averse from natatory exercises. About the cony the writer said that often it will allow a dog to catch it when it would have a chance of saving itself by simply swimming a short distance. My experience of the little quadruped gives me an entirely different impression of its pluck and powers. Of an evening I used to visit a tiny, grassy island near my home in the West Highlands. It is accessible at low water by a narrow belt of sand. Often I found before me one or two rabbits which had travelled from the mainland at the ebb in order to nibble the clean, sweet herbage. As soon as I came in view they would trot down to the beach, fling themselves into the brine, and swim across the little channel to their rightful quarters. The retreat was always carried out calmly and leisurely, and without any indication of flurry or excitement. Certainly the bob-tailed animals were not afraid of the water. With regard to the hare, I am unable to make an assertion one way or another, for I have never seen it under any necessity to engage in swimming. Pheasants can disport themselves in the limpid element almost as well as the sheldrake. When shooting in seaside coverts I have frequently witnessed an odd bird striking out in a wrong direction, flying far over the sea, losing its head, and falling incontinently into the water. In every case that came under my notice the truant exhibited little hesitancy in breasting the waves, and experienced no difficulty in covering, easily and swiftly the distance that separated it from the shore. With reference to the landrail and other birds, similar evidence might be adduced; and to assert that they dread the water is, I think, to deny them credit for capabilities and wit which they undoubtedly possess.—A. H.

THE ROSEATE TERN.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In an article which appeared in COUNTRY LIFE of February 9th, describing the life and habits of the roseate tern, the writer made the following reference: "In an interesting book upon 'The Home Life of the Terns' particular mention was made of an *apparent* peculiarity in connection with this species.



A FULL-LENGTH SIDE VIEW.

It was said that when the wings were folded one would be above the tail, and the other below. I have since carefully looked for this, but in no case was it apparent, the birds in every case folding their wings above the tail in the usual manner." (The italics are mine.) This reference is not quite fair to the facts as stated and illustrated in the book in question. In the first place the peculiarity was not only *apparent*, it was a very *real* one, though it



PAUSING AT THE EDGE OF THE NEST.

was not described as characteristic of the species but only as incidental to the particular birds the author had been studying; in the second place, it was not only said that when the wings were folded one would be above the tail and the other below; it was actually *proved* by photographic records in the book itself that one wing was *really* crossed over above the tail and the other



THE CROSSED WINGS AT REST.

below it. I will ask your readers to examine the actual photographs and then judge for themselves. In the first illustration the roseate tern is shown settled on the nest, and a full-length side view of the bird is given. In the second illustration she has just walked down a little sloping rock shown on the left and is pausing at the edge of the nest, which contained one egg only,

before settling down to her duties of incubation. In the third, and perhaps most convincing photograph of all, she is again settled on the nest, but on this occasion she has obligingly given me a front view not only of her head and face, but of the crossed wings at rest, and of the beautiful long streamers of the tail which form one of the points of differentiation and distinction between the roseate tern on the one hand and the common and Arctic terns, with which the roseate is so closely allied, on the other. In all three photographs the habit in question is clearly indicated, and I am sure that No. 3, at least, carries its own argument on its face to prove that the bird's left wing crosses over *above* the tail feathers and that her right wing crosses over *underneath* the tail feathers. In other words, the bird as pictured in each photograph is "holding her tail between her wings"! May I add that there was no statement in my book which inferred or suggested that the particular habit in question was a general one among the roseate terns; it was only described as pertaining to the birds I was studying and photographing. May I add also that if I had only *seen* the evidence of this habit and not also been fortunate enough to secure photographs to prove it, I should never have mentioned it, because, as the reference quoted above amply shows, nobody would have felt inclined to believe me if I had done so. As I concluded the reference to it in my book: "An observer's written or verbal assertion of such a curious and unsuspected habit would probably have been questioned; a series of actual photographs, however, will surely carry conviction." Apparently, however, there are still naturalists who do not seem able to assimilate the reliability of observations which they have not themselves been able to confirm, though the facts established in the photographs are, as Burns would say,

"'chiels that winna ding,
An' downa' be disputed."

—W. BICKERTON.

AN EIDER DRAKE AS A PET.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—The following particulars of our Eider drake may interest your readers. First of all he was caught when full grown by my father-in-law at North Berwick eighteen months ago, and since then has spent most of his time with the Eider drake at the Edinburgh Zoo. A few days ago he came down to Gloucestershire, and seems none the worse for the change or journey. His diet is biscuit-meal, well soaked and chopped lights, the latter being by far the most popular. He is wonderfully tame and sits on his rug before the fire like a dog, and is now quite used to our bulldog. When at meals he sits on the floor below and gives you a poke, as much as to say: "Have you forgotten I am waiting?" and if you take no notice he will make that weird wor-wor-wor till you give him a bit of bread or meat, which he will take quite gently from your hand. As companions he has Ruddy Shelduck, Chiloe wigeon, Gray Lag and Berwick, but he always looks lonely, and some day I hope we may be able to get an Eider duck for him; but they are very hard to catch and very few thrive in captivity, as we caught four that day and this is the only survivor. Should anyone reading this know of a duck for sale, would they communicate with me?—MAUD LAIDLAY.

REFERENCE WANTED.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Your correspondent "G. J." in your issue of March 2nd asks for information concerning the White Bear of Wombledon, and I am sorry that my reply is of so meagre a nature. I am Derbyshire bred and born, and as a child I met other children in the autumn nights to tell tales and listen to tales told, one of which was about the wolves of Wombledon, in the course of which a woman in charge of five babies had to pass over a moor when she was followed by wolves, and she had to throw four babies one after another to the wolves to save her own and the last of the babies' lives, only reaching a house just in time. The tale was always told in plain prose, as, indeed, most of them were. Alicumpane was a sort of sweetmeat, leathery in substance, and the rhyme about it ran

Alicumpane,
What is your name?
Where do you live?
Top of yonder lane?

This was said as an introduction to begging some "cumpane," which was, however, any sort of sweetmeat.—DERBYSHIRE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In "Lilliput Levée" (published by Strahan of 56, Ludgate Hill), page 151 occur the lines:

"His sister gave him some Elcumpane
With an everpoint pencil that had been hers."

I have had the book ever since I was a baby, and have always wondered what elcumpane might be. I hope you will find out.—H. J.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In answer to "Reference Wanted" in the issue of March 2nd regarding alicumpane, perhaps the following may be helpful. I take it "alicumpane" is only an earlier way of spelling elcumpane, a medicinal plant—in former days greatly esteemed as a remedy for catarrhal affections. No doubt the lines refer to the plant growing exuberantly "down yonder lane"! Many old wives in the country had a clever knowledge of plants and their uses, and were resorted to by the country people for cures for various troubles. It was common also to nickname these old beldams by their callings, and one who made any special use of alicumpane would very likely be called "Old Mother Alicumpane," or, more respectfully, "Mrs. Alicumpane." This seems to me a reasonable explanation of the old rhyme. Elcumpane (or alant-cumpane) is the common (or garden) name for the plant Inula Helenium; habitat, England; order, Compositae.—G. D. YATES.

THE SHOW OF KING'S PREMIUM HORSES AND PONIES AT NEWMARKET

THE conclusion is forced upon us that the future of horse-breeding in this country depends on the stallions; none of our brood mare schemes has really helped us much. At all events, it is clear that while our means and resources are limited, the stallion is a much better "business proposition" than the mare, inasmuch as his influence is so much greater and so far-reaching.

LESSONS OF THE SHOW.

In considering the recent show at Newmarket I propose to assume the exhibition there as being of the right stamp of horse and of high average quality. I will pass over any possible criticisms as unsuited to these times. The general feeling of those best qualified to judge was that it was a most satisfactory show and that we ought to be thankful to have held such an exhibition. It is a point which was impressed on me by several experienced judges that, even if horse-breeding moves slowly in these times, yet we should strive to keep up and to raise the standard. England is no doubt the source of the best horse stocks in the world, and after the war, as before, will remain the great market-place to which the horse-breeders of the world will resort.

THE JUDGING.

Not only was the show of stallions at Newmarket a good one, but the judging, by common consent, was thorough, painstaking and sound. The judges accepted their office as a national responsibility, or, at all events, they acted up to that view. I propose to analyse their decisions, not from the point of the critical outsider. It is not true that the looker-on sees most of the game at a horse show, for, as a matter of fact, it is the man inside the ring, and he only, who can judge the individual and comparative values of the exhibits. I cannot help thinking that to analyse results will help us to learn the lessons of this show for the horse-breeder as an individual, and also to reach some principles useful to horse-breeding as a national industry. In breeding any sort of horse the points to look for in a stallion are individual quality and character, pedigree and performances. A stallion should look like a horse likely to stamp his likeness on his stock, and the pedigrees of the winners at this show tell us that the prevailing characteristics of certain lines of blood reappear in the produce. To take performances first. The judges would not be entirely, or perhaps even greatly, influenced by the performances on the racecourse of any individual horse. But the fact remains that the result of their careful examination of the horses showed that those horses which satisfied them that they had the make and shape, the quality and power demanded of hunter sires were, in a majority of cases, those which had passed the test of the training stable and the racecourse and come out of it with credit. To come to figures, there were 60 Premium stallions, and of these 34 had a good, others a fair, and only a minority no racecourse record at all. Of the 12 super-Premium stallions 8 had good records, 2 fair, and 2 none. But in the matter of pedigree there was no exception among the super-Premium horses. These have not only good but first-rate ancestry. They have winning and staying blood. Gallinule,

Stockwell, Sterling and Newminster recur frequently in their lines of descent. No less than three of the super-Premium horses—Rathurde (the champion), Bachelor's Lodge and Bachelor's Image—were by Tredennis, thus including Bend Or, Doncaster and Hermit in their pedigrees. The judges paid special attention to the action of the horses, and it is at least likely that those with winning records would come out of this test well, showing the power of using their shoulders and hocks, which is indispensable for a good hunter. All hunters should be fair hacks, but horses that may be called upon for service in the Army must walk and trot well, safely and smoothly. There is another point which the judges took pains to emphasise—the necessity of King's Premium horses showing what we may call the hunter type.

DOUBTS.

The show leaves one doubt in my mind. Do the super-Premiums do more good than an increased number of ordinary Premiums would effect? It is quite right to have the King's Cup in order that the judges may tell us what two horses they think the best in the show; but, for the rest, are they so much more valuable than the horses which won ordinary Premiums or even reserves? (I hear that so good a judge as the Dowager Lady Londonderry engaged a reserve Premium horse to travel in Durham.) But if we have super-Premium horses at all, ought not they to be those which have proved themselves to be the best stallions and those which have the largest and best proportion of foals and young horses to their credit?

THE HUNTER-BRED CLASSES.

The hunter-bred classes were not large, but they were unusually good. The judging of the heavyweight hunter sires was by far the most exciting incident of the show. The choice lay between Sir Merrik Burrell's The Best, by Flying Hackle, and the Norfolk Farmers Association's Gateboy, by Walmsgate. It was a very near thing, and The Best, which is a fine mover and one of the best walkers I ever saw, gave a show which stirred the spectators to applause. Gateboy is a weight-carrying hunter all over, and substance won against quality, as perhaps was right in such a class. The third prize horse was Sir Galahad, by Puro Caster, good enough to show that Puro Caster can sire hunters. In the two year old class Lord Middleton's Despot II, by Wales, stood out; he is full of promise.

THE POLO PONIES.

The polo ponies were good. Mr. Tresham Gilbey showed a beautiful three year old colt by Right For'ard, likely to make a grand polo-bred stallion. Field Marshal looked well, moved well and, of course, won easily in his class. The New Forest breeders are lucky to secure his services this season. Among a moderate lot of thoroughbred polo stallions, Victory II had by far the most pony character. There was a good little Arab stallion, Crosbie, and he has the reputation of being the sire of some nice ponies. The arrangements and management were excellent, and I think we all were grateful to Messrs. Tattersall for giving us the chance of holding the show. T. F. DALE.

MACHINERY NOTES FOR MODERN FARMERS

THE FERGUSON PLOUGH AND AN UNDEVELOPED SOURCE OF POWER FOR THE FARM.

A RELATIVELY untapped source of motor power for application to farm purposes exists in the thousands of motor cars scattered throughout the country; but, unfortunately, the respective numbers of each of the different models are comparatively small. As the models vary so much in constructional details, no form of standardised equipment has been evolved which would be applicable to the conversion of every model so as to render it suitable for use as a tractor; and, so far as I am aware, only one make of car has been constructed on strictly standardised lines and sold in sufficient numbers to warrant the special production of a conversion set to suit it.

The standardised car referred to is, of course, the Ford, for which a number of such sets are now on the market, and it is not too much to say that, make-shift though they be, these converted machines are giving a considerable amount of satisfaction to their users and are doing valuable work for the nation. The great drawback to their use and a considerable handicap to their efficiency has been the lack of implements, particularly ploughs, specially designed for use with these machines, as this has frequently resulted in

a plough of excessive weight being employed or, as an alternative, a horse plough has been used which required the presence of an extra man to control it.

From my short but frequent experiences of these converted Ford cars, the conclusion has been arrived at that for some considerable time one of these machines, if suitably equipped with a light self-lift plough, will do as much work in a week as the majority of regular tractors on the market will do. The question as to how long they will last remains to be proved, but they certainly seem to be capable of doing at least one year's hard work.

The production of the Ferguson plough, which is in every sense of the word a special implement for converted Fords, I therefore regard as a matter of considerable importance, not only to the number of persons now using Fords, but possibly to the nation, as it is difficult to foresee what the war has in store for us, and it may yet be that shipping difficulties will render it impossible to import either food or machinery in sufficient quantities for our needs. Probably the quickest means to obtain a great increase in power for the farm would be to concentrate one of our big works on the production of a standard conversion set in sufficient quantities to enable use to be made of every Ford car in the country. A similar effort should then be made in regard to turning out a really suitable plough to work in conjunction

with these tractors. It appears as if such a plough is now in existence in the form of the Ferguson plough, ready to be taken up by the authorities that be should circumstances arise to warrant any such action as has been outlined.

The Ferguson plough is made only for use with the Ford Converted Tractor, and this I mention at once to prevent disappointment to non-Ford owners who might wish to try the plough with a regular tractor.

In construction the plough is like no other self-lift plough, as it is mounted direct on to the tractor frame and has no independent existence of its own, as may be seen from the accompanying illustrations.

It has so many special features that it is difficult to single out any for special mention, but possibly the two most important features are its light weight and draught, and the ease with which adjustments of all kinds can be made.

For marking out headlands or setting the field out in sections or lands, the movement of one hand lever instantly cuts one of the two furrows right out so that a single furrow can be ploughed. The movement of this same lever can be regulated so that the inside furrow can be ploughed shallower than the outside furrow, thus enabling a "back" to be thrown up as perfectly as with horses.

A control lever in a convenient position beside the driver lifts the plough at the headlands and drops it again on entering the furrow, and by means of this same lever the



Crested ploughing 5½ in. deep in very old lea. Note how neatly the ridge has been thrown up, how tightly the furrows are packed together, and how the grass is buried.

For finishing off the headlands, particularly the corners, great advantages are derived from the fact that the plough can be lifted quite clear of the ground and the tractor reversed and manœuvred into any position unhampered by the plough.

The troubles incidental to ploughing in rough or rocky ground have also been foreseen and guarded against, as,



MARKING OFF A HEADLAND.

Showing the plough rocked to the near side, one furrow only ploughing. Rocking the plough is the work of a moment.

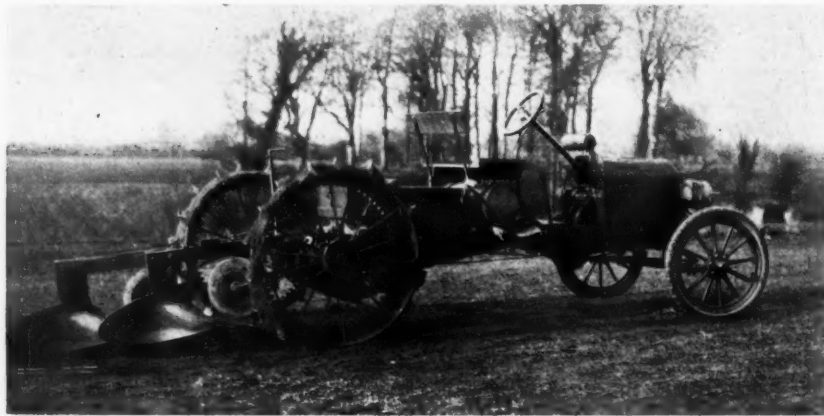


THROWING UP A RIDGE.

Note that the plough is only slightly rocked to the left. Ridges of any type can be thrown up by the Ferguson plough just as perfectly as with horses.

driver can also regulate the depth of the ploughing while the tractor is in motion. It will be noted that not only are these adjustments and movements instantaneous, but they are obtained without the use of any spanners or tools and without alteration to a single nut or bolt.

The plough being coupled up so closely behind the tractor, the width of headland necessary is reduced to a minimum.



General view of the Ferguson plough as fitted to the Eros attachment for converting the Ford car into a tractor. The control lever is seen beside the driver's seat. This lifts the plough out and enters it at the headland through the medium of a crank supported at one end by the tractor and attached at the other end to the front of the plough. The depth of the ploughing can be varied by this lever while the tractor is in motion. The top of the rocking lever can be seen on the front of the plough.

should the share strike the upper part of a large stone, the back of the plough can rise up and ride over it. If, however, the share gets hooked under something solid, then a break pin serves as a safety valve, the strength of the pin being unequal to any strain which would damage the plough. Three different types of shares are supplied, for flat ploughing, rectangular ploughing, and crested ploughing, respectively.

There is evidence of much thought and care in regard to details, such, for instance, as the standardisation of nuts; one small spanner fits every nut. Six safety break pins are supplied with each plough, and these are carried in a clip on the plough frame under the driver's eye, so that he is reminded to get fresh pins if his spares are reduced in number.

A most comprehensive booklet of instructions is supplied fitted into a water-tight box on the plough, so that it can be preserved and is at all times available for consultation in case of difficulty. There are a number of other minor details none the less important which I have not touched upon; and it is in regard to this matter of attention to detail that the makers, Messrs. Harry Ferguson, Limited, May Street, Belfast, should be complimented equally as much as upon the general design of the implement.

PLOUGHSHARE.